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The Sea Coast Echo

VOL. 107, NO. 24

BAY ST. LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI

SINGLE COPY 50 CENTS

THREE SECTIONS, 46 PAGES

Opinions differ over beverage tax

Bay, Waveland support the tax...

BY BETSY GAGNET
The Waveland Board of Aldermen joined the Bay St. Louis City Council in seeking a local and private bill which could allow a two percent food and beverage tax to support the Hancock County Tourism Development Bureau.

Aldermen unanimously

agreed to seek the legislation. During discussion on the matter, Waveland Mayor John Mason reiterated that seeking the local and private bill would not commit the city to the tax, but would allow the city the option of whether or not to implement it.

TAX—PAGE 10A

...County supervisors opposed

BY ED LEPOMA

Hancock County Supervisors stand united against a proposal before the State Legislature that would add a two percent tax to food and beverages sold in local restaurants and "mom and pop" businesses.

Supervisors said they learned of the pending proposal only after Mayor Eddie Favre asked the Bay City Council Tuesday night to sup-

"I'm not voting for any tax increase, and that's definitely a tax increase...The people have had enough in Hancock County..."

Supervisor Rocky Pullman

port the amendment following a request by the Hancock County Tourism Development Bureau.

Favre said the deadline for

filing local and private bills was this coming week, and the local legislative delegation

SUPERS—PAGE 10A

Pass strategy session Monday

BY ED LEPOMA

A team of state agencies will convene in Pass Christian Monday to plan strategy to offer quick assistance to approximately 180 apparel workers who will soon lose their jobs.

Officials of Stuffed Shirt Jeanswear, which operates a clothing manufacturing business in downtown Pass Christian, confirmed this week that the plant at Market and Scenic Drive is closing May 16 and moving to Mexico because of the availability of cheap labor.

About 20 persons will be transferred to company operations in Long Beach, but the majority will be laid off.

The closing prompted a quick response from Pass Christian Mayor Billy McDonald, who said he was sad to see the manufacturer leave, especially since the firm pays about \$60,000 in annual property and personal taxes, in addition to generating income for local residents.

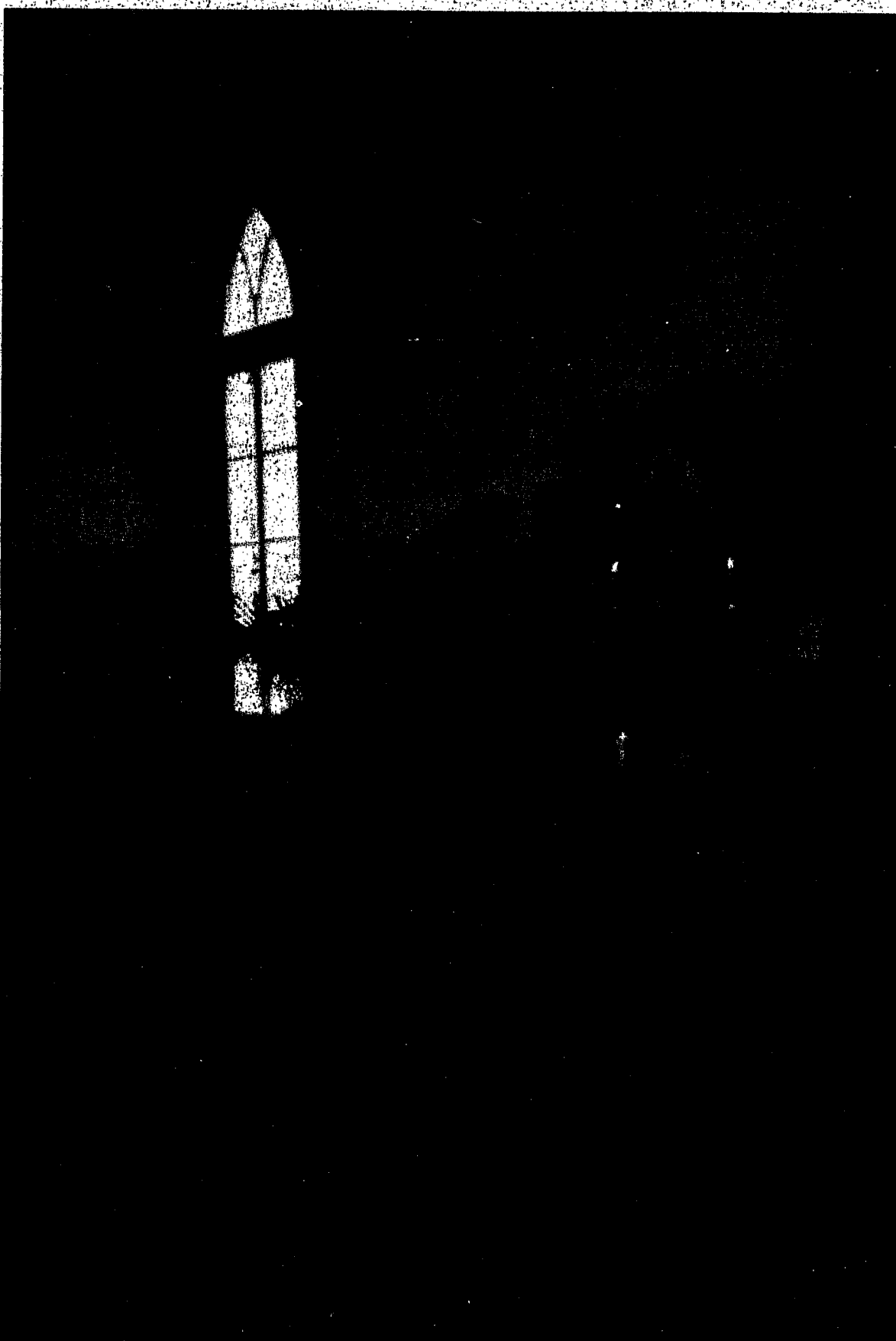
McDonald said some type of clothing manufacturer has operated out of the downtown facility since the 1950s, and the working staff helped support local restaurants and other businesses.

He vowed, "We'll do everything we can through state agencies to get these people new jobs or to get them training for job skills that will lead them to new employment."

Shortly after the announcement of the closing, McDonald received a letter pledging assistance to the displaced workers from the Gulf Coast Business Services Corporation, an arm of the Gulf Coast Private Industry Council.

President and CEO Mary Lee

PASS—PAGE 10A



Dunbar chapel

Frances Thomas and Marge Thomas (friends, but not related) were among worshippers who came to pray Thursday before the altar at the historic St. Joseph's Chapel on Dunbar Avenue. They said they planned to tour all the other St. Joseph altars in the Bay-Waveland area. (Echo staff photo by Ed Lepoma)

Spring Pilgrimage opens Thursday

BY BETSY GAGNET

Next week marks the 51st anniversary of the annual Mississippi Gulf Coast Pilgrimage.

Each year selected homes, gardens and historical landmarks are spruced up and opened to the public for touring.

Presented by the Mississippi Gulf Coast Council of Garden Clubs, the complimentary tours include sites from Pascagoula to Waveland.

This year there are two new participants in the event. Gather-Te-Rosebuds Rose Society in Bay-Waveland and the Point Island Garden Club in Pass Christian Isles, join the Bay-Waveland Garden Club, the Diamondhead Garden Club and the Pass Christian Garden

Club in putting on the local area tour.

Festivities start Thursday, March 26 with gardening seminars and a flower show at Grasslawn in Gulfport.

Gardening seminars run from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and the Four Seasons Garden Club of Gulfport Standard Flower Show "Plantation Celebrations" will be from 3-5 p.m. The Beauvoir Belles will also be at Grasslawn and the Yearling Young Dancers will perform.

Brochures and maps may be obtained on opening day.

"We encourage everyone to come for opening day. It sets the tone for the entire tour," said Coast-wide Pilgrimage Chairman Mrs. Nick (Pete) Hyman of Waveland. "People

can get their brochures for the entire Pilgrimage."

Hyman added that Grasslawn is the hospitality center for the entire Pilgrimage and refreshments will be served.

The first of the local tours takes place on Friday, March 27, in Pass Christian Isles from 10 a.m.-noon and Pass Christian from 1-4 p.m.

Pass Christian Isles will be hosted by the Point Island Garden Club with Pass Christian hosted by the Pass Christian Garden Club.

One home and one garden may be viewed in Pass Christian Isles and four homes and one garden in Pass Christian.

"The ease of Pass Christian Isles is that the house and garden are very close together,"

said Hyman. "In Pass Christian, the three houses, one garden and the afternoon tea are all on one street."

Diamondhead will be featured on Wednesday, April 1, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., with 11 stops on the tour including the Diamondhead Community Center which serves as headquarters. Lunch will be available for purchase at the Diamondhead Yacht Club.

"Diamondhead runs the gamut from a 5,500 square-foot house called Lakewood, to a log house called Viking, to a 1,000 square foot cozy, comfy home to a nature trail and several gardens," Hyman said. "We're trying to show a variety of styles."

SPRING—PAGE 10A

Shows to Bay: safety over economy

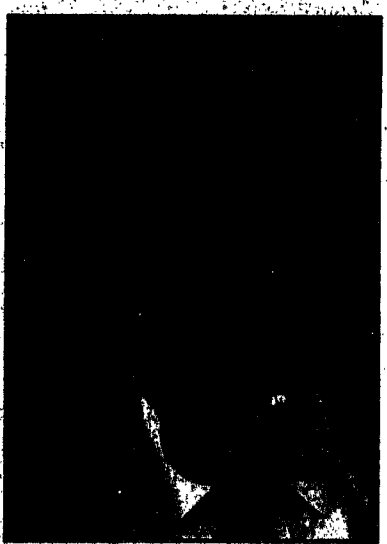
BY MARY G. SEILEY

Southern District Highway Commissioner Ronnie Shows said Thursday he cannot support reopening the Longfellow Road crossing of Highway 90—unless there's a way to install a traffic signal at the site.

"Safety has to take precedence over economic development. But our position is our engineers all agree it needs to be closed," Shows said.

"And under those circumstances," he said, "it's our duty to do it."

Workers closed off the median passage earlier this month, just as a real estate agent urged Bay St. Louis City Council to take action to prevent it from happening. Nell Frisbee said she had marketed property on the south side of Highway 90 as having access from Longfellow.



"Safety has to take precedence over economic development...Our position is our engineers all agree it needs to be closed...It's our duty to do it..."

Highway Commissioner Ronnie Shows

And Frisbee appeared a second time at City Council to urge that the matter not be dropped, although the closure has been completed. She outlined what she said were drastic economic consequences if traffic couldn't flow from Longfellow directly across the highway, and from the east-bound highway lane across to Longfellow.

Residents of surrounding communities will opt to shop in Waveland, she said, if the median crossing is not reopened.

SAFETY—PAGE 10A

OBITUARY

EVANS R. CHAPMAN
RYAN DEDEAUX
LOUISE E. KELLY
H. L. ROBINSON
V. J. RUTLEDGE SR.

EVANS R. CHAPMAN
 Evans Roger Chapman, 67, of Biloxi, died Thursday, March 19, 1998, in Biloxi.

Mr. Chapman was born Aug. 11, 1930 in Nolan W.Va. and had been a resident of Biloxi for the past 18 years. He was a member of VFW Post 495 and DAV in Columbus, Ohio.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Buffy Chapman; his father, Zeph Chapman; his mother, Gypsy Mae Chapman; a daughter, Peggy Sue Chapman; and a son, Roger David Chapman.

Survivors include two daughters, Dinah J. Bounds of Pass Christian; and Lisa Ann Vance; a son, Joseph M. Chapman, both of Columbus, Ohio; two sisters, Janet McKinney of Gallipolis, Ohio; and Nell Ross of Niceville, Fla.; six brothers, Andy Chapman of Navarre, Ohio, John Chapman of Rock Springs, Ga., David Chapman, Glenn Chapman, Richard Chapman and James Chapman, all of Gallipolis; seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 6-9 p.m. today at Howard Avenue Chapel of Bradford-O'Keefe Funeral Homes in Biloxi. Services will be conducted 1 p.m. Monday at the funeral home with burial in Biloxi National Cemetery.

The family prefers memorials to Community Hospice, Gulf Coast.

RYAN DEDEAUX

Ryan Dedeaux, 18, of Pass Christian, died Sunday, March 8, 1998, in Biloxi.

Arrangements are incomplete at J. T. Hall Funeral Home in Gulfport.

LOUISE E. KELLY

Mrs. Louise Elizabeth Kelly, 79, of Pass Christian, died Thursday, March 19, 1998, in Gulfport.

Mrs. Kelly was a native of New Orleans and a Pass Christian resident since 1970. He was a salesperson and was retired from Sears and Roebuck. She was a member of St. Paul Catholic Church in Pass Christian.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Martin James Kelly; three sons, Martin James Kelly; three sons, Martin James Kelly Jr., John Michael Kelly and Thomas Patrick Kelly; her parents, Theodore and Mary McCaffery Posner; and two brothers, Theodore Posner and Hugh James Posner.

Survivors include two sons, Dennis Francis Kelly and Brian Joseph Kelly, both of Pass Christian; three daughters, Mary Bridgett Street of Silver Springs, Fla., Patricia Ann Lader of Metairie, and Catherine Louise Koch of Ponchartraine, La.; 16 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.



In Memoriam

In Loving Memory
JESSIE E. CAUDILL
 May 22, 1957-March 22, 1997

It's been a year
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 Family and your many
 Friends

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Graveside services were conducted Saturday in St. Patrick No. 2 Cemetery in New Orleans. Riemann Funeral Home in Gulfport was in charge of arrangements.

The family prefers memorials to St. Paul Catholic Church, Pass Christian, MS 39571.

H. L. ROBINSON

H. L. "Robbie" Robinson, 76, of Bay St. Louis, died Thursday, March 19, 1998, in Bay St. Louis.

Mr. Robinson served in World War II and attained the rank of Master Sergeant and received the World War II Victory Medal, ATO Medal, EAMETO Medal, Good Conduct Medal and the Bronze Star Medal. Mr. Robinson retired from Gordon's Transport as district sales manager. He was a lifetime member of the Baton Rouge and New Orleans Traffic Clubs. He was also a former instructor at Loyola University in New Orleans and was formerly employed as a consultant for freight traffic. He also served as vice president of Our Lady of the Gulf St. Vincent de Paul Society.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Roger Wesley and Era O'Mara Robinson; and two brothers, Roger Robinson and Wesley Robinson.

Survivors include his wife, Norita Yeger Robinson of Bay St. Louis; sons Rucks Robinson of Hurley, Michael Robinson of Lewis Center, Ohio, Paul Robinson of Biloxi; daughters Lynne Henry of Escatawpa, Anne Parker of Sugarland, Texas; Patricia Bradley of Vickeburg, Susan Whiddon of Sumrall; 17 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Mass was celebrated Saturday at Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church in Bay St. Louis. Burial will be private. Edmond Fahey Funeral Home in Bay St. Louis is in charge of arrangements.

The family prefers memorial contributions to Our Lady of the Gulf St. Vincent de Paul Society c/o Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church, P.O. Box 208, Bay St. Louis, MS 39520.

V. J. RUTLEDGE SR.

Mr. V. J. "Papa Jack" Rutledge Sr., 73, of Jackson, died Tuesday, March 17, 1998, in Jackson.

Mr. Rutledge was a retired electrical engineer and construction project manager for

the last 50 years. He was a native of Shreveport, La., and had been a resident of Jackson since 1984. He moved to Jackson from Dallas, Texas. He was an Episcopalian and a 32nd degree Scottish Rite Mason in the El Karuah Lodge in Shreveport and was a member of the Shriners.

Mr. Rutledge was preceded in death by his wife, Mildred Treadwell Rutledge; and his father, Collier C. Rutledge Sr.

Survivors include his mother, Clyde J. Rutledge of Shreveport; a son, Jay Rutledge of Nashville, Tenn.; two daughters, Rebecca R. Ladner of Pass Christian and Susan R. Johnson of Jackson; a brother, Collier C. Rutledge Jr. of Garland, Texas; seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Graveside services with Masonic Rites were conducted Friday at Lakewood Memorial Park, Lakewood Memorial Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Theatre supper

Gulfport Little Theatre will have a catfish supper with the cast of "Cotton Patch Gospel" on the grounds of the theatre after the 2 p.m. performance March 28.

There will be a limited number of tickets available, which will be on sale at the box office beginning March 16 through 20 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and 4:30-8:30 p.m. and Saturday, March 21, noon-4 p.m.

Tickets for the catfish supper are \$10 adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. All proceeds will go to the building fund.

Call 864-7983 for reservations or come to the box office during the hours listed.

Hwy. 603 traffic light to be added

Relief may soon be on the way for an interchange that is becoming increasingly hazardous.

The Mississippi Department of Transportation announced it will install a light at the interchange of Interstate 10 and Highway 603. MDOT has been studying the area after a request was made to the department by Rep. J.P. Compretta.

MDOT sent a letter to Com-

pretta that "lighting is warranted" at the interchange and it will be added to the Surface Transportation Improvement Program in the fall of 1998.

"The interchange has become dangerous," Compretta said. "I am pleased MDOT has addressed the matter, and the lights installed. The interchange will be safer for everyone traveling in the area."

Facial laser surgery seminar scheduled in Biloxi

A free seminar to inform the public regarding new technology provided by the Coherent UltraPlus 5000C Aesthetic Laser is being held March 26 at 7 p.m. in the Gulf Coast Medical Center cafeteria.

Dr. George M. Thurber will present a slide show detailing procedures and effects and will answer questions concerning facial laser resurfacing or laser surgery in general.

Also, patients who have undergone laser surgery with Dr. Thurber will be on hand to answer any questions about the treatment from their personal experience.

According to Dr. Thurber, this technology provides significant advances in the field of cosmetic surgery. The Ultra-Pulse laser gently "paints away" lip wrinkles, crow's feet and acne scarring and allows virtually blood-free repair of drooping upper eyelids and sagging lower lids.

It can remove superficial skin cancers and "erase" the effects of long-term sun damage. The laser actually stimulates the collagen layer of the skin, producing more elastic and healthier skin.

Thurber stated the Ultra-Pulse 5000C Aesthetic Laser is the most advanced and precise

of its kind on the market, minimizing the healing time and maximizing the effects. It provides for a blood-free operating field for rapid, precise treatment, less bruising, swelling and patient discomfort and a rapid return to normal routine.

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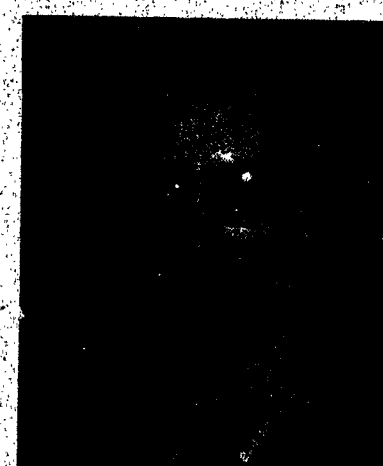
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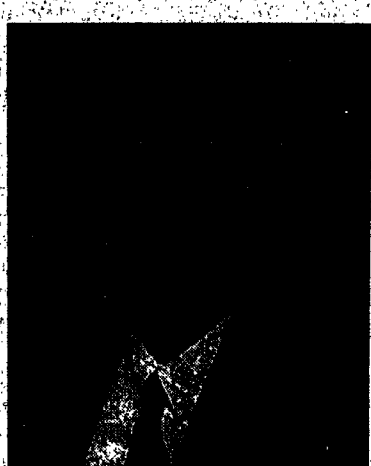
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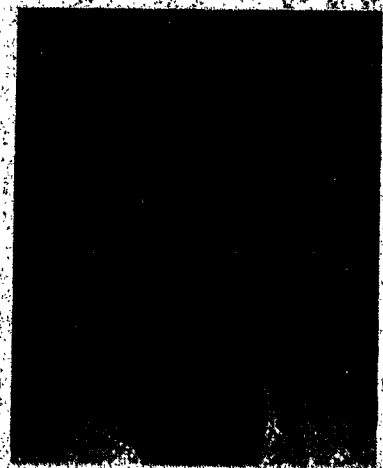
Bertin C. Chevis, M.D.
 307 Uman Avenue, Bay St. Louis
 467-8422



Richard F. Bennett, D.O.
 307 Uman Avenue, Bay St. Louis
 467-8422



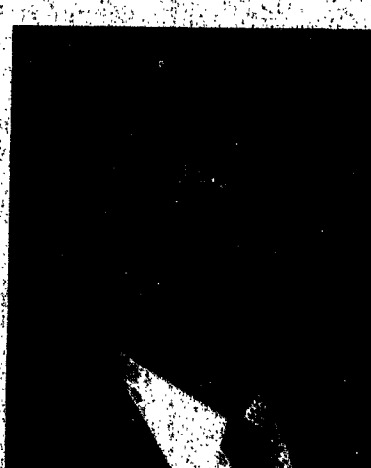
Sidney Chevis, M.D.
 644 Dunbar Avenue, Bay St. Louis
 467-9238



Roberta M. Chilmigrae, M.D.
 200 Highway 80, Waveland
 467-9281



Leland R. Kendrick, M.D.
 1003 Waveland Avenue, Waveland
 467-5716



David F. Roberts, M.D.
 5435 Gex Drive, Diamondhead
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Second Saturday begins in April

The schedule for the Second Saturday Art Walk Series has been set for the 1998 season. The traditional downtown program centers on a walking tour of galleries and studios featuring the art and artists of Bay St. Louis. The seven-part series is scheduled the second Saturday of the month from April through October.

The three-year old program has grown in popularity, as well as in visibility and will be assisted this season by the Bay St. Louis Development Foundation in coordinating the series' events.

"What started as an event for our artists has grown enough that we need help in putting it all together," said Vickie Niolett, one of the events' founders. "The development foundation and its Main Street program has the volunteers and resources available to coordinate the series and hopefully help it grow even more."

The Bay St. Louis Development Foundation will work with merchants, business professionals, churches and area neighbors to widen the visibility of the arts in the community.

Second Saturday is not just a promotional event to build traffic," said Betty Ruth Hawkins, Main Street manager. "The tradition of hosting art and artists is steep in this area. I haven't quite seen anything like the interest and encouragement that this city gives to its

artists. For a merchant or an office building to open its doors after hours to host an exhibit, a demonstration, a performance or display of art and then to entertain the visitors and guests with ice tea or coffee and sweets is a level of altruism, hospitality and community spirit that is just not going to be matched anywhere."

The Foundation is encouraging support and participation from professionals, businesses, churches that have not yet involved themselves in the Second Saturday Art Walk Series. According to Hawkins, this year's series will include a day-long gathering of artists.

The seminar will focus on techniques, methods, materials and will be followed in the evening by the Second Saturday events.

"Last year the Second Saturday Series established a pattern, and an amazing amount of people were repeat visitors," said Ellis Anderson, cofounder of the Second Saturday series. "We want to continue that trend and make it an outstanding event that makes people from all over the South want to come to Bay St. Louis."

For information in participating or exhibiting in the Second Saturday Art Series, contact Hawkins, Bay St. Louis Development Foundation Main Street manager, at 463-7172 at her office in Old City Hall or by calling 466-9062.

St. Joseph Altar

Kay McCord stands in front of her family's St. Joseph Altar on Central Avenue in Waveland. Visitors to the altar received the traditional "lucky beans" as well as a piece of St. Joseph Bread baked especially for the altar.

Kiwanis to sponsor Cancer Relay for Life

BY ELLIS C. CUEVAS

The Hancock County Kiwanis Club will sponsor the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life scheduled for Friday, March 27, 7 p.m. at the Hancock County Walking Track, preceded by a cancer survivors reception to open the ceremony at 6:30 p.m.

Jay Lagasse and Cal Gex are the local Kiwanis co-chairmen for the Relay for Life which will be from 7 p.m. March 27 through 7 a.m. March 28.

Cancer survivors are invited to gather to celebrate their victory over cancer, said Earlene Cuave, project assistant for the American Cancer Society in Biloxi.

All survivors will lead the first lap of the relay.

Lagasse said, "We invite everyone to come out and walk in support of the fight against cancer. There will be entertainment, food and fellowship throughout the night. An auction will be held at 10:30 p.m. at the Walking Track."

Auction items include an autographed Super Bowl 32 football from Brett Favre, #56 Dixon Saints jersey and a Miami Dolphins gift pack.

Raffle tickets are available at \$5 each with the winner receiving \$250.

New lights in Pass

BY ED LEPOMA

Within the next two weeks, downtown Pass Christian will be brighter, and hopefully, safer.

Mayor Billy McDonald and the Board of Aldermen Tuesday night agreed to add up to 16 lights along Scenic Drive and intersecting streets on recommendations of Alice Russell, the city's Special Projects coordinator.

Russell told the mayor and aldermen that she and Police Chief John Dubuison jointly surveyed the downtown area, driving throughout the four blocks from Fleitas Avenue on the east to Heira Avenue on the west, and from Scenic to Second.

"We found that adding 14 lights and two poles with lights to the area will greatly enhance the visibility, and we think the safety of pedestrians," said Russell.

McDonald said with more shops locating downtown, creating more nighttime activity, increased lighting was a priority of his administration.

He said the additional lights will cost the city about \$100 more a month, but the funds are available in this year's budget. The mayor estimated the new lights could be in place within two weeks.

Russell also called for repairing sidewalks that have caved in within the downtown area.

McDonald said he planned to make the repairs in-house rather than contract out the work. The mayor said road crews would survey the problem areas and begin repairing the worst spots first until all the sidewalks have been repaired.

Hancock report card pickup

Hancock High School will host open house Monday, March 23, 4-6 p.m. Parents are requested to attend for the purpose of signing students' Career Education Plans.

Also, students' report cards and individual Iowa Test results will be distributed to parents by the students' advisor-teachers. Parents may then visit with academic teachers.

Refreshments and door prizes are being provided through generous community support, and child care will be available for children 3-5 years old.

Parents unable to attend should contact the school to schedule individual appointments during regular school hours March 24-27.

Bay High parental conference

On Monday, March 23, parents of Bay High School 10th graders are being asked to attend a conference with their child's teacher advisor to plan a schedule of classes for the 1998-99 school year.

Conferences will be held 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at Bay High School. This year the Bay St. Louis-Waveland Public School District is involved in a process to strengthen the academic and career portions of students.

A course selection with a parent and advisor signature must be completed in order for a student to be registered for courses next year. For an appointment, contact the Guidance Department at 467-5297.

ing two round-trip airline tickets compliments of Continental Airlines for traveling within the Continental U.S.

A luminary ceremony will begin at 9 p.m., and we invite all to participate. You can purchase a luminary bag placed in honor of loved ones touched by cancer, or in memory of those lost to cancer for a \$10 contribution to the American Cancer Society," Lagasse said.

Lagasse continued, "With a luminary bag contribution, the individual designates a person whose name will be written on the luminary to be lit Friday evening. All persons participating in the event will walk the track lit by luminaries, and the names of your loved ones will be read."

Hancock County Kiwanis members will be assisted by members of the Hancock County Retired Senior Program (RSVP) for the Relay for Life.

"We hope you'll (cancer survivors) join us for this special time to reflect on a very important victory in your life. And please stay for all the excitement and fun of the Relay for Life," Quave said.

To purchase a luminary, raffle ticket or for more information, call the RSVP office at 467-9204, or 463-7203.

Mason said Wednesday he credits aggressive police patrolling and continuing training of police officers with keeping crime low in the city.

The report lists the total number of crimes for January in nine different Mississippi cities and three counties, broken down by type of crime.

In January, Waveland had 42 total reported crimes, compared to 55 in the same month in 1997. However, the January total was an increase from a total of 30 in December 1997.

The monthly average number of crimes in Waveland for 1997 was 50. The only city with a lower monthly average in 1997 was Pass Christian with 48. The report shows a 1997 monthly average of 81 total crimes for Bay St. Louis and 141 for Hancock County.

Larceny/theft accounted for the most crimes in Waveland in January at 18, which ranked the city second lowest behind Jackson County with 13. Gulfport and Biloxi each reported over 200 for the month.

Waveland reported no homicides, rapes, robberies, arsons or auto thefts for January and only two burglaries.

Waveland crime down

BY BETSY GAGNET

Waveland may be one of the safest cities along the Gulf Coast, according to a January 1998 crime statistics report from the Mississippi Coast Crime Commission.

Waveland Mayor John Mason announced the findings at Monday's workshop meeting of the Board of Aldermen.

Mason said Wednesday he credits aggressive police patrolling and continuing training of police officers with keeping crime low in the city.

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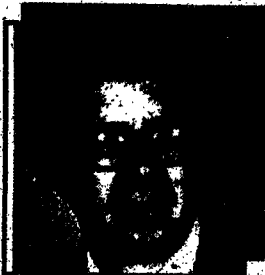
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"CUEVAS' QUOTES"

By Ellis C. Cuevas

It was a very interesting morning for me on Wednesday during the sting operation held in Hancock County. It was really a joy to see the cooperation between so many law enforcement agencies involved in the operation and how well they worked together.

True, the media was not allowed to go out into the field, as we were told there were a lot of guns, especially in the Pearlinton area. This was true, as assault weapons, pistols and a lot of ammo were confiscated in addition to cash and more drugs.

The sting involved a tremendous amount of undercover work by Drug Enforcement Agents and extended over a three-month period.

The D.E.A. agents were assisted by Shane Corr, director of the Hancock County Drug Task Force and task force members Mike Byrd, Jeff Hair and Tommy Jennings.

Hancock County Sheriff Ronnie Peterson and his department, Bay St. Louis Chief Frank McNeil and Waveland Police Chief Jimmy Varnell and their departments all contributed much to the operation. All of the above need to be commended for their efforts.

It took a lot of time and organization to make the sting a reality, and all those giving "outside" assistance need to be commended, too.

In conversation on Friday with Sheriff Peterson and Corr, they both report they have received many plaudits from many in the community, and it is deserved by all law enforcement agencies involved in the operation.

Hopefully the sting will place a curb on drug traffic in the Pearlinton area and county for a long time.

I know it was a hard situation Sheriff Peterson and task force director Corr had been placed in back in January when Pearlinton citizens invited them to a town meeting to discuss their drug problem.

Knowing the undercover operation was in progress, and not being able to say anything, put them in an awkward position.

Peterson told me a D.E.A. agent called him right after the meeting and wanted to know what happened as everything had gotten quiet on the drug scene in Pearlinton.

He told the agent there had been a town meeting, and that was the reason. The agent later told the sheriff that after a week, activity once again was going strong in the community.

I had one person from Pearlinton tell me Wednesday evening that she had never seen so many law enforcement cars at one time in her community before.

Like every community in our nation, illegal drugs are a very serious problem.

How to solve the problem really is anyone's guess. I have been told that if enough people in a community want drugs eliminated, it can be done. Law enforcement officers can not do the job by themselves.

Letters Welcome

The Sea Coast Echo welcomes comments from its readers on subjects of general interest. Letters must be signed and include address or phone number so that the sender can be contacted by the newspaper if necessary. Letters should be brief, preferably typewritten and double spaced, and conform to standards of good taste. Only one letter per writer per month will be published. The editor reserves the right to edit or reject letters.

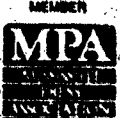
Letters of thanks, expressions of appreciation and political endorsements are considered inappropriate for the Letters to the Editor columns.

—Ellis C. Cuevas, publisher

The Sea Coast Echo

USPS 487-100

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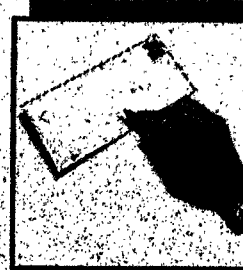


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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Enough is enough!

To the Editor:
It has taken me several days to calm down enough to write a printable editorial in response to the March 12 article in the Sea Coast Echo pertaining to the Bay-Waveland School Board. Those of you who read the article may recall that the Echo's journalist, Mr. Richard Meek, made many disrespectful and unsubstantiated allegations against the board for scheduling a meeting on the same evening as the Bay High girls' basketball semi-finals in Jackson.

Mr. Meek calls into question the board's judgment, commitment to girls athletic programs and a host of other frivolous insults. For those of you who have not read it, don't bother. As with most of this journalist's articles, the facts are fiction and the theme is antagonistic as always.

Virtually every week I read countless misrepresentations written by this journalist. Each time I encounter these articles I am driven to begin to compose an editorial response, but usually stop short because I trust that most folks in our community see through the weak reporting and put the paper to use for its only real value, disposing of the remains of last night's dinner. However, the March 12 article clearly deserves a response.

Let me take just a moment of your time to illustrate the disregard Mr. Meek has for accurately and comprehensively reporting the news. In his article, he leads you to believe that our board purposely scheduled the meeting in conflict with the game.

The fact is that our board was invited by the Hancock board to meet on the evening in question to address very important and time sensitive issues relating to the vocational programs.

Mr. Meek described the meeting for you as basically worthless and certainly not, in his view, worth scheduling for that evening. Fact is that Mr. Meek was not present at the meeting (a point that is seldom a barrier that prevents him from reporting the news as though he was).

I would also point out that Mr. Meek was neither appointed to the board by the City of Bay St. Louis or elected by popular vote from the City of Waveland as are all the rest of us. Consequently, I would conclude he is grossly unqualified to judge when, where and with whom the board should meet to deal with managing the affairs of the district.

In essence, Mr. Meek wrote his article to publicly insult the board for being absent from the girls basketball game and attempts to have our community believe it was with malice or forethought that we did not attend.

Of course, he neglects to point out that all five members hold responsible professional positions that dictate their schedules. He never mentioned that three of them had professional and personal conflicts that evening and could not even attend the meeting with the Hancock board much less go to Jackson.

Why doesn't he bring these points out in his article? Because the facts would undermine the theme and intent of his story.

One of the best illustrations of Mr. Meek's penchant for antagonism is his allegation that our board does not equally support the girls basketball program at Bay High. I wish this guy would get a life! Imagine, this is the same guy who is just as likely to have written you an article the previous week that we pay too much attention to the basketball program and spend too much on repairing and maintaining the gym.

Mr. Meek, interview the Bay High athletic director and you will find that our board invests substantially of our professional and personal time and resources in all of the sports programs.

Do you think that the girls team got to Jackson without the highest quality coaching, facilities, and strategically organized block time schedules for practice and training?

Who do you think was involved in making it possible for those teachers and students to

be in the stands that night in Jackson? On second thought, don't waste anyone's time doing the interview, you never get it right.

Mr. Meek's integrity reached a new low (imagine the imagery that conveys) when he questioned whether or not the board would likely have scheduled a meeting if the boys football team was competing for a state championship in Jackson. This board deals with the matter of the schools when and where they arise.

Three of our members have children who have participated in junior varsity football program while we have served on the board. Unfortunately, we missed every other game for the past several years as we meet on evenings that conflict with the game schedules.

We very much wanted to participate in these events, but had to choose between the job we agreed to perform for the community and the games.

Mr. Meek, as foreign as these practices may seem to you, they are the types of sacrifices that go along with our accountability for carrying out the role of board members.

My favorite passage in the article is Mr. Meek's call for a formal apology to the girls basketball team from the board. Bare with me just a little longer and I will address this point at the close of this editorial.

The fact is that Mr. Meek's reporting of matters of our school system is so consistently inaccurate that it calls into question exactly what is going on at the Sea Coast Echo.

Who is editing these articles before they are published? Does anyone at the Echo care about the quality, accuracy, intent and community impact of what you publish? Don't see titles in the paper like Senior and Associate Editors?

Three months ago I had occasion to discuss these issues with the Echo's Senior Editor, Mr. Ellis Cuevas. I merely asked if the Echo had enough money to buy Mr. Meek a hand-held tape recorder so he could come closer to presenting the news to the community as it really takes place. He laughed, but I did not, as I know intuitively that the situation would not change, and it didn't.

The saddest aspect of all of this is that the real story of March 12 should have been that the girls had won the semi-finals. No one is any prouder of that fact than the five members of the board.

Unfortunately, Mr. Meek thought it would make a better story to somehow malign the character of the board using the girls basketball program as a pawn.

For whatever your reason, Mr. Meek, you missed the boat. If we had any respect for you before, it has been totally and permanently withdrawn.

I said that I would save the apology thing for last. You bet an apology is in order, but not the one called for in the article. The Sea Coast Echo owes every member of the Bay-Waveland School board a personal apology for allowing the March 12 article to go to print.

By their approval I represent all five board members when I tell you that we believe that the management of the paper should present a published apology, and we petition you to immediately assign another journalist to replace Mr. Meek on all future matters of the district schools. Enough is truly enough!

Bryon O. Griffith
Member
Bay-Waveland School Board
Waveland

Editor's note: Richard Meek's column in question was clearly marked as his "opinion." The Sea Coast Echo has never published anything "intentionally inaccurate" in its 105 years of publication, nor will it ever do so.

We seriously protect our right to print our opinion on any matter with the same seal which we honor Mr. Griffith's right to make his opinion known through this letter.

Waveland reader complains about cable TV increases

Dear Editor:
Have you ever played musical chairs? For money?

Well, that's what the owners of TV Cable companies are doing for money. This one buys out part of that one and/or swaps some territory, and viola — everyone raises their rates while the public suffers.

The latest in these ventures just hit Hancock County when Mediacom bought out Cablevision and immediately raised the basic cable rate by almost 33 percent. Oh, they explain it off that they're giving you six more channels, none of which offer much more than you already received.

None of us were asked if we wanted more channels and/or which ones might be of interest to us — and I offered to give them back some channels to offset the ones being supplied and/or swap for other channels. Who needs four news or three

sports channels? And at my age I never look at MTV or some other stations — but NO, they won't consider giving you what you want. I was told, "We offer Basic Cable, and no choices other than those offered."

I guarantee you, if there were a choice which cable company to use, I'd be searching for another. As it is, a somewhat similar letter to this is being sent to Congressman Taylor and Senator Lott requesting they initiate a bill in Congress to once again put cable companies under price controls and make them repeal all price increases of the past year.

Won't you join me and either write a letter yourself or come sign the one I'm sending to Congress, as this is a ridiculous situation.

Regards,
Royce P. Kaupp
Waveland

HHS student complains about lack of coverage

Dear Mr. Editor:

I'm a 7th grade student at HHS (Hancock High School), and I would like you to start putting our school in the Sea Coast Echo.

Our school has a lot of history and so many other neat things about it, and we would like for our school to be noticed.

Whenever I look in the paper

I see stuff about Bay High and other schools, but there's nothing said about HHS.

We would like it if you could put something in the paper about us, like the things we have going on or just whatever you put in about other schools.

Rance Neacise
Hancock High School

IN CONGRESS

By Rep. Gene Taylor

Taylor outraged at latest NAFTA closing

South Mississippi Congressman Gene Taylor called the Shuffled Shirt Jeanswear plant closing announcement in Pass Christian the "last straw" as a result of North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which was passed by Congress over his strong objections in 1993. Taylor has called this agreement "nothing but a bad deal for the American people."

"I voted against NAFTA, and I predicted this would happen," said Taylor. "Unfortunately, the majority of the members of Congress voted for NAFTA, including some members of the Mississippi Congressional Delegation and both of our senators."

"This is the final straw. The people who voted for NAFTA must be called to task on this. People need to remember who voted to do away with their jobs by supporting NAFTA and who voted to save them by opposing it," said an outraged Taylor.

"This is what happens when elected officials put the best interest of multinational corporations ahead of the best interest of the American people," said Taylor.

Taylor said the result of NAFTA is that as a nation we have gone from a trade surplus to a trade deficit with Mexico. We have lost tens of thousands of jobs to Mexico as a nation and hundreds of jobs right here in Mississippi he said.

As a direct result of the North American Free Trade Agreement, five factories in South Mississippi alone have shut down. Factories in Gulfport, Neely, Wiggins, Lumberton, Poplarville that once employed hard-working folks, have closed their doors and moved to Mexico.

"In the next few days I plan to be in touch with Pass Christian Mayor Billy McDonald, Mr. Irving Wahl, owner of the company, and others in the hopes that we can find someone to continue to operate the plant and give the hard-working men and women at Shuffled Shirt an opportunity to work."

Missile Protection Act Introduced by Cochran, Inouye in U.S. Senate

Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS) and Senator Daniel Inouye (D-HI) introduced legislation to make it the policy of the United States to deploy a national missile defense system as soon as technology permits.

"Because of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and missile delivery systems, the United States must commit itself to deploy a system as soon as possible to protect against a limited ballistic missile attack," Cochran said.

The bill does not mandate a date for deployment of a system. Instead it calls for deployment as soon as the required technology is available.

In January of this year, Cochran's Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on International Security, Proliferation, and Federal Services issued the "Proliferation Primer" which described the findings from a year-long series of hearings which examined the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction technology, missile delivery systems and key enabling technologies.

Cochran said, "The hearings of the subcommittee produced evidence of the growing threat to our nation's security caused by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. The time has come to demonstrate by our action that the United States will not remain defenseless against ballistic missiles."

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REFLECTIONS ON LIFE

By Father Jerome
LeDoux, SVD

We walk on
holy ground

Stripped of all their beauty and vitality, the mortal remains of Elizabeth Comeaux no longer cast a down-home spell of magic over her family and environs. For all human intents and purposes, no power went forth from the earthly shell.

Still, I had an eerie feeling as I settled into the pulpit to give the homily at the funeral Mass. There was indeed a powerful aura emanating from the cold coffin. The command to Moses from the burning bush flooded my consciousness:

"Come no nearer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground. . . I am who am. You shall tell the Israelites: I AM sent me to you" (Ex:3:5, 14).

Virtually straining, choking the words out, I admonished the people: "We are standing on holy ground. We are standing on holy ground. We are standing on sacred ground."

Significantly, this overwhelming feeling was merely a repetition of what had transpired almost two months before in the Opelousas General Hospital. Despite a body racked by cancer, Elizabeth's clear mind and beaming smile shone forth.

As I stood at her bedside ab-

out to pray, I had the uncanny conviction that it was I who needed her prayers and not she mine. Yes, there it was: the eerie, otherworldly persuasion that I was standing on holy, sacred ground.

It had been two years since I last experienced that with such a degree of power. As my beloved mother lay wasted, waiting for the final call of Jesus on Feb. 12, 1996, I had that same wonderful conviction that I was on holy ground.

Leaving Opelousas with Elizabeth in my heart, I shared her aura of power with my congregation at St. Augustine Church in New Orleans the next morning at Sunday Mass. It was no coincidence that they too soon felt they were on holy ground.

It became quickly clear that "I am who am" is not hidden away on Mt. Sinai, but resides in the person of each human being created in the image and likeness of the Godhead, just as reported in Genesis 1, 27.

Not surprisingly, we stand on holy ground in church, in God's house where God has a sacramental presence. However, we stand on ground that should be even holier in our own family, face to face with our spouse, pa-

rents, children and siblings. At home, where our mother concurred with our Creator, carrying us in her sacred chamber of life for nine months, we live and move about constantly on holy ground.

Wherever there is an Elizabeth Comeaux, who exudes the very Spirit of God in her words and actions, "I AM" is there to confront us on holy ground. "I AM" in the person of Jesus, Emmanuel, greets us each moment on holy ground.

Even where a person is much less than holy, even where a person is sinful and offensive, we are on holy ground because of the image and likeness of "I AM" in every child of God, wayward or not. God is obscured, but somehow really there.

Periodically, especially during the penitential seasons of Advent and Lent, we address the need to reform our lives. It is to our advantage to remember where all reform begins.

If we are in need of any reform in our lives, it is this most basic of all reforms: to change our mind-set to encounter "I AM" in each other, in the rational creatures fashioned in God's image and likeness. We stand on holy ground.

'Relatively Speaking' opens Theater season

Just who is the owner of the size 12 slippers under Ginny's bed? Join the cast of "Relatively Speaking" to find out the answer to that question as well as a few others.

"Relatively Speaking," a comedy in two acts by Alan Ayckbourn, is the first play of the Bay St. Louis Little Theater's 1998 season. Opening night is March 27 at 8 p.m. with additional evening performances March 28, April 3 and 4 and a 2 p.m. matinee March 29.

Set in England, the play follows a day in the life of Ginny and Greg, a young couple madly in love and talking of marriage, and Sheila and Philip, a middle-aged married couple, settled and comfortable with each other. Misunderstandings and miscommunications follow as the two couples meet and spend the afternoon together.

Director Becky Rotundo is pleased that her cast is all new to the Bay stage.

"It's always exciting to have new faces join our theater," she said. "New faces on stage always mean new faces in the audience."

Ginny is played by Rebecca Prescott, a native of the Coast and a graduate of Hancock High

School. Although she performed in various church-related presentations, Prescott makes her community theater debut here. She works for Grand Casino, Gulfport, and is pursuing an acting career with John Casablanca's Agency in New Orleans.

Todd Riche (Gregory) is director of public relations at St. Stanislaus. His acting credits include numerous college productions, such as "To Kill a Mockingbird," "Dracula," and "Take Five," as well as "A Christmas Carol" and "Improve Children's Theater" with the "Timon and Puck" troupe. He also played "Mike the Tiger" at Louisiana State University.

Riche is a past member and president of the Nicholls State Alpha Psi Omega Theatrical Fraternity and a past member of the Vagabond Players Theatrical Company and the Nicholls Players Theatrical Organization.

Some of Jody Cochran's (Sheila) community theater credits include appearing as seven different characters in "The Dining Room," "The Runner Stumbles," with the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Players, and "Summer and

Smoke" and "The French Have a Word for It" for Center Stage.

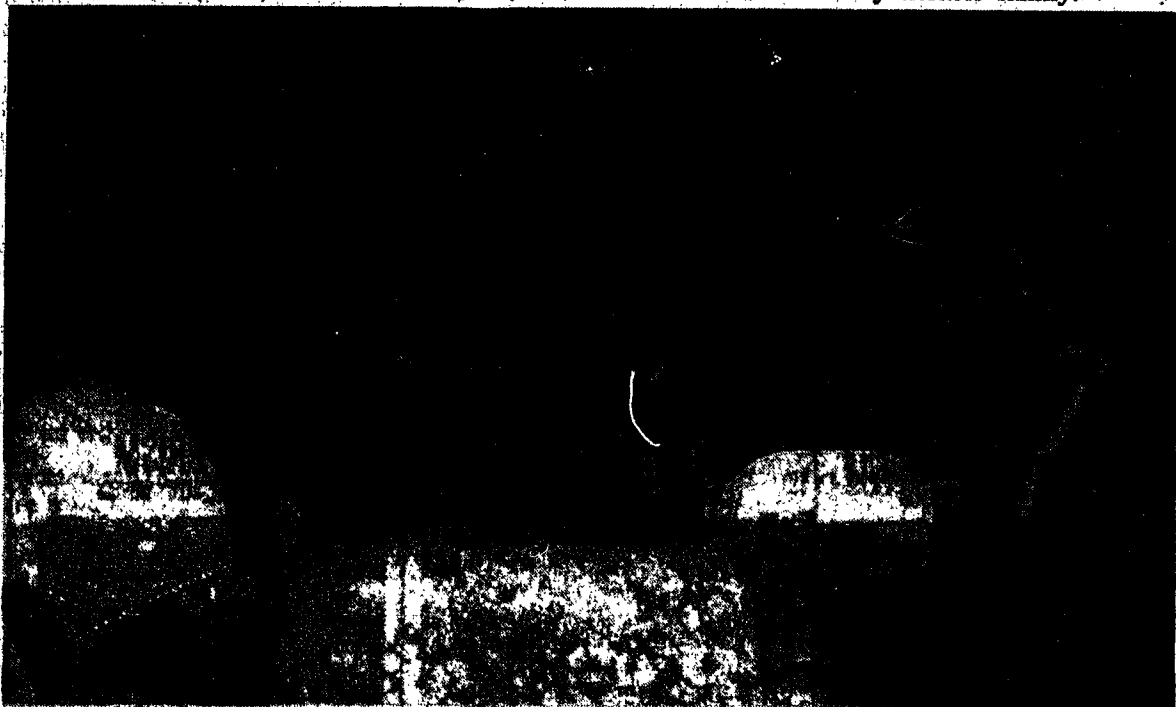
Cochran is a native of Denver, Colo., and is the manager of the Paper Factory at the Gulfport Outlet Mall and lives in Long Beach with husband Jim (Philip).

Jim Cochran has adapted quite nicely to the stage and thanks his wife for introducing him to the theater and encouraging him to give it a try. Theater credits include Inspector Dupont in "The French Have a Word for It," and R. R. Snively (his favorite role) and Ike Thompson in "Tuna Christmas," both at Center Stage.

He has also helped with set construction for several productions here. Cochran is a manager with Mississippi Power Company.

Rotundo has been involved with the Bay Theater for more than 25 years. Directing credits include "God's Favorite," "Rumors," and "The Foreigner."

"A production is always a full-time effort that couldn't take place without willing volunteers," said Rotundo. "All the new faces in 'Relatively Speaking' have increased the number in my theater family."



The cast

Bay St. Louis Little Theater's presentation of "Relatively Speaking" includes cast members, from left, Rebecca Prescott, Todd Riche, Jody Cochran and Jim Cochran.

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Spring Pilgrimage calendar

Thursday, March 26

Opening Day at Grasslawn, 720 Beach Blvd., Gulfport

Gardening seminars 9:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m., refreshments provided

9:30-10:30 a.m.-Domino House-Special events and special occasion floral arrangements, Linda Domino, Gulfport

10:30-11:30 a.m.-Gather-ye-Rosebuds Rose Society-Focus on roses, Melinda Richard and Society members, Bay St. Louis

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.-Lydia's Audubon Shoppe-Backyard butterfly and hummingbird gardens, Lydia Schultz, Gulfport, Bay St. Louis

12:30-1:30 p.m.-Olga Clifton-Organic Gardening, Abita Springs, LA

1:30-2:30 p.m.-Shade gardening with color and variety, Betsy Burgess, Gulfport

Flower Show 3-5 p.m.

The Four Seasons Garden Club of Gulfport Standard Flower Show "Plantation Celebrations"

Friday, March 27

Pass Christian Isles/ Point Island Garden Club, 10 a.m.-noon

1. Home of Peggy Hesse, 112 Ponce de Leon Blvd.

2. "Liebenwald" Gardens of Mr. and Mrs. Miles Rogers, 100 Havana Blvd, refreshments will be served

Pass Christian/Pass Christian Garden Club, 1-4 p.m. Brochures and maps available at Valentino's Fine Gifts and Accessories, Wicker n' Wood, Botanica Home and Garden Creations, Harbor View Cafe, Hillyer House, Jackie's Gift Shop, Lynda's Cookery and Blue Skies Gallery at 102 W. Second Street

1. Home of Peter and Karen Morreale, 158 Spence Drive

2. Home of Bill and Deborah Jackson, 157 Spence Drive

3. Garden of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Schilling, 160 Spence Drive

4. Home of G. I. Perry, 144 Spence Drive, refreshments will be served from 3-4 p.m.

Wednesday, April 1 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Diamondhead/Diamondhead Garden Club

1. Headquarters-Diamondhead Community Center, view flowers and arrangements of the Diamondhead Garden Club members for their annual Standard Flower Show. Coffee, brochures and maps available

2. Diamondhead Community Church and Memorial Gardens, 5301 Diamondhead Circle

3. Home of Mrs. Patrice Donohue, #7 Wilderness Run

4. Home of Colonel and Mrs. Chuck Ingraham, USMC (Ret.), 7437 Mahalo Hui Drive

5. Home of Mr. and Mrs. Len Krick, 8616 Kiki Place

6. Gardens of Jim and Diana Israel, 96456 Diamondhead Drive West

7. Diamondhead Yacht Club, 3410 Yacht Club Drive, south of Interstate 10, Dutch treat luncheon available for \$8.50, for information call (228)255-2925

8. Home of Bob and Karly Legere, 978 Kainuki Street

9. Diamondhead Academy Nature Trail, 88360 Diamondhead Drive East

10. Home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Orr, Jr., 792 Lanai Street

11. Home of Mr. and Mrs. John Pearson, 320 Puunani Place

Thursday April 2

Bay St. Louis-Waveland 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Gather-ye-Rosebuds Rose Society

1. Hancock County Tourism Development Bureau, 408-A Highway 90, Bay St. Louis (directly behind People's Bank) open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. for brochures and maps, refreshments will be served

2. Hancock County Library, 312 Highway 90, Bay St. Louis, "Renaissance-The Revival of a Community" mosaic mural, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m., refreshments served in the Seal meeting room, maps available

3. Home of Col. and Mrs. Faust, 112 Sears, Waveland 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

4. Home of Robert and Elaine Selle, 111 Gulf Drive, Waveland 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

5. Home of Mr. and Mrs. Roland Schexnayder, 113 Market Street, Waveland 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

6. Gardens of Paul and Carmen Santa Cruz, 300 Market Street, Waveland 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

7. Home of Julie Rosson, 721 North Beach Boulevard, Waveland 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

8. Home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cresson, 242 St. Charles Street, Bay St. Louis 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Bay-Waveland Garden Club

1. Bay-Waveland Garden Center, 114 Leonard Avenue 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Piecemaker quilt display, maps and brochures available, coffee served

2. Old Town Bay St. Louis-walking tours encouraged, maps available in most shops

3. The Bay Town Inn, 208 North Beach Blvd, Bay St. Louis, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., music by the Main Street Methodist Church Accapella Choir, noon-1 p.m.

4. Chessy's, 110 South Beach Boulevard, Bay St. Louis, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., light refreshments served

5. Kate Lobrano House, 108 Cue Street, Bay St. Louis, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., home of the Hancock County Historical Society

6. Cedar Rest Cemetery, South Second Street, Bay St. Louis, 1-3 p.m.

7. Home of Mrs. Alice Moseley, 214 Booker Street, Bay St. Louis, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

8. Heron Home, 655 North Beach Boulevard, Waveland, 1-4 p.m.

9. Guest cottage of Bret and Lauri Talbot, 105 Burnett Street, Bay St. Louis 1-4 p.m., light refreshments will be served

10. "Rip Tide" gardens of Mr. and Mrs. E. Burton Kemp, 1312 North Beach Boulevard, Bay St. Louis, 1-4 p.m.

11. Wild Flower Garden, Old Highway 90 near Pearlington (across from the Mississippi State Weight Inspection Station.)



Pilgrimage performers

The Bay-Waveland Women's A Cappella Choir will be performing at the Bay Town Inn on Thursday, April 2, 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., during the annual Spring Pilgrimage. Choir members are, seated from left, Sonja Caplinger, Patsy Fayard, Dianne Bourgeois, Janelle McLain and Lana Noonan; standing, Bobby Hunter, Ellie Danton, Betty Benvenuti, Cherie Fairburn, Nanette Stroh, Mary Howard, director; and Grace Santa Cruz. The choir was formed under the direction of Mary Howard. Although the group is sponsored by the Main Street United Methodist Church, where Howard serves as minister of music, there are several area churches represented. This is a volunteer choir and will perform various types of music for your listening pleasure.

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Library's story hour

"Balloon Fun" will be the theme for the children's story hour at the Bay St. Louis-Hancock County Library Wednesday, March 25 at 10:30 a.m. Susan Daigre, program coordinator, will assist the children in making their own balloon hats. *Harvey Potter's Balloon Farm* will be the book to be read during the program. Children will also play at "Bat the Balloon" game.

Weekly story hours are held September through May. Programs last approximately one hour. The Kiln Library hosts a story hour every other Thursday.

Programs and activities are designed for pre-school-age children three to five years old who are not part of a nursery or pre-school group.

For story hour information, contact David Woodburn, Bay St. Louis-Hancock County Public Library, 467-5282; Sandra Ladner, Kiln Library, 255-1724; or Donna Hutchings at the Waveland Library Literacy Center, 467-9240.

Public meeting

The public is invited to a meeting at 10 a.m. Monday at the Necaise Crossing voting precinct to discuss federal funds available to help water quality and erosion problems on farm land in the Wolf River Watershed areas of northeast Hancock County.

Federal funds are available, and officials will be on hand to discuss the program and how eligible landowners and operators might qualify for financial assistance.

The meeting is being coordinated by the Hancock County Soil and Water Conservation District-Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Pearl River/Hancock County Farm Services Agency in Poplarville.

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SPORTS

THE SEA COAST ECHO—SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 1998-7A

Special Olympics competitions set at Stennis

Months of training will soon pay off for Special Olympic athletes when they compete in the Area III Track and Field Competitions March 28 at Stennis Space Center.

More than 250 athletes from over 17 schools in a four-county area will begin arriving at Stennis Space Center at 8 a.m. for the day-long event.

The 16th annual games, coordinated by the Naval Oceanographic Office, are patterned on the world Olympics and include the pageantry and excitement of Olympic Games, with an opening ceremony, lighting of the Special Olympics Flame of Hope and reciting the oath.

Competitive events include wheelchair races, standing and running broadjumps, dashes, shot put, softball and bocce ball. Fun activities, such as the frisbee throw, soccer and fishing are also available for the athletes. Drill teams, cloggers, skydivers, clowns and singers entertain the athletes and volunteers during lunch.

According to Karen Donlon, 1998 chairman, two volunteers are needed for every athlete.

"Volunteers may work directly with an athlete, making sure he/she participates in all the assigned events, has lunch and has a good time," said Donlon, "or they can assist with operating an event and recording results."

The mission of the Special

Olympics is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for all mentally handicapped children and adults, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friends with their families, other Special Olympians and the community.

The concept of Special Olympics began in the early 1960s when Eunice Kennedy Shriver started a day camp for people with mental retardation. From that experience it was clear that these people were far more capable in sports and physical activities than even many experts believed.

In 1968, Shriver organized the First International Special Olympics Games at Soldier Field in Chicago, where 1,000 athletes from the United States and Canada competed in track and field events and swimming.

The Mississippi Olympics Chapter was also started in 1968 at the University of Southern Mississippi with 150 athletes participating. Today, more than 13,000 children and adults participate in Mississippi's Special Olympics programs in every county.

For information on the games or to volunteer for the Stennis games, call Donlon at (228) 688-5882.



Wheelchair races

The Oaks to host Nike Tour event

The Nike Tour may soon be returning to the Mississippi Gulf Coast, with a new sponsor and location.

On Friday, Gulfport-based Halter Marine Group, which has a shipyard in Port Bienville Industrial Park, announced it will pick up the tab for sponsoring the event, which was last played at Mississippi National Golf Club in Gautier in 1997. A minimum of \$300,000 must be raised before the Professional Golf Association will consider having a Nike event played on the Coast.

If a playing date can be se-

ured, the tournament would be played at The Oaks in Pass Christian. The Oaks, located off of Menge Avenue, recently opened.

The Nike Tour, which is a tour for rising young golfers, and those in the autumn of their careers, has had a Coast stop since the tour's inception, eight years ago, then known as the Hogan Tour. However, there will be no tournament this year because no sponsors could be found or a suitable golf course.

Halter named the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast as the tournament beneficiary.

Diamondhead Nines results

Feb. 17, Throw Out

Highest and Lowest Score

Back Pine
First flight: first, Donna Harna; second, Wanda Newman; third, Marilyn Dehnhostel.

Second flight: first, Julie Baudry; second, Dot Sierveld; third, Kay Horn.

Third flight: first, Margaret Joly; second, Etheleen Johnson; third, Betty Tracy.

Chip-ins: Wanda Newman and Betty Tracy.

Feb. 24, Mardi Gras

Scramble, Back Cardinal
First: Maureen Holt, Betty Tracy, Celeste Klein.

Second: Lorna Decker, Mary Turner, Betty Cutler.

Third: Pat Heyd, Shirley Schaffer, Virginia Schmitt.

Chip-ins: Bobbie Sorgenfrei, Vera LaCoste, Shirley Smith.

March 3, Trophy Day

Front Pine

First flight: low gross, Wanda Newman; low net, Marge Dieball; low putts, Ellen Nutting.

Second flight: low gross, Celeste Klein; low net, Phyllis Hamburg; low putts, Martha Pearson.

Third flight: low gross, Jerrie Guidroz; low net, Glenda Hen-

BAYS accepting nominations

The Board of Directors of Bay Area Youth Soccer will be accepting nominations from any active member of the organization for openings on the board for the coming year.

Nominations must be submitted in writing with the signature of five active members as well as the person running for office.

These nominations can be submitted to any current board member and must be turned in by May 18.

Any questions concerning the nomination process can be directed to a member of the board.

Park Ten bowling results

Thursday Mixed Nuts
Larry Husband 202, Jerry Greenfield 235, Jon Higgins 212, Murry Palmer 201, Tilton White 212.

Christian Fellowship
Louis Zine 258, Dan Sperbeck 200.

Alean
Mike Carbon 216.

Friday Night Out
Brian Chiasson 201, Duane Troxler 214, 225 - 638; Jerry Richmond 238, 262; Jack Moore 211, Ricky Johnson 226 - 621; Murray Pitre 220, Charles Pique Jr. 236 - 618; Sue Snow 234, Bill Bley Sr. 206; Larry

Olier 203.

Dupont "A"

Rick Collins 220, Bill Blaine 206; Mary Ann Richards 211.

Casino Magic Mixed

Gene Bien 245 - 617; Bob Larsen 203, Gene Head 216, 210 - 612.

Monday Miller

Gene English 222, Andy Andrews 215, 233 - 641; Jim De-

ters 214, Greg Walters Sr. 204, 232 - 613 - 646; Stephen Smith 215, 238 - 642; Greg Walters Jr. 212, Terry Smith 214, 215; Jack

Thornor 223, 279 - 691; Rusty Schenck 206, Kirby Gowland III 232 - 610; Anthony May 200, Dan Sperbeck 204, Bill Marcel 210, Duane Troxler 216, 234 - 642; Bob Saucier 220, Lloyd Si-

monaux 234, 216 - 624; Norm Postier 215, 205, 211 - 631; Sammy Vance 204, Jon Higgins 222, Kirby Gowland 223, 213; Ricky Johnson 200, 214 - 608; Sam Cittadino 200, 266, 232 - 698; Ricky Miller 234, Les Ri-

daught 209, 242, 203 - 654; James Smith 203, Clarie Matthews 227.

Tuesday Mixed Up

Perry Watkins 209, June Watkins 214, Danny Patton 217, Brian Tames 231, 202, 206 - 639; Duane Troxler 252, Jack Klein 218, Danny Contreras 251, 225 - 666; Norm Postier 219, 258, 215 - 692; Joann Smith 200, Clay Ledkins 204, Bill Taylor 203, David Gardache 201, 255 - 632.

Ladies Night Out

Sandy Whitacker 214, Deanne Thompson 201, Diane Whittle 204.

Wednesday Night Men's

Danny Hust 205, Kirby Gowland 214, Brian Tames 201, 212 - 606; Duane Troxler 246, 212 - 643; Glen Turner 202, Lee Hertz 212, 207; Jon Higgins 216; Jeffery Munyan 236, Jerry Richmond 246, 247, 215 - 708; Kirby Gowland 234, 201, 290 - 725; Norm Postier 202, 235 - 632; Ricky Johnson 221, 255 - 650; Clay Ledkins 231 - 611; Rick Collins 242, John Munis 236, 228 - 660; Danny Contreras 235, 214 - 629; Freddy Bryant Jr. 225; Eddie Thompson 220, Jerry Bond 213; John Johnson 211, Jimmy Drews 222, Greg Christodoulou 203, 204; Ricky Miller 211, Danny Garner 231, Gus Pique 219, Don Connell 214, Tommy Nance Jr. 205.

Turkey season open

Mississippi's wild turkey season for gobblers opened yesterday and will continue through May 1.

Shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset.

The bag limit is one adult gobbler or one gobbler with a six-inch or longer beard per day, not to exceed three gobblers during the season.

Consult the "1997-98 Outdoor Digest" or your local county conservation officer for closed areas.

Sportmen hunting on state wildlife management areas should consult the area regulations for opening and closing dates.

According to the latest figures from the state wildlife department, more than 40,000 hunters take to the woods during the spring season and harvest slightly more than 30,000 birds.

Enforcement officials remind hunters to have a valid hunting license signed and on their person before going to the woods.

Hunter safety officers say that even though turkey hunting is a safe sport, hunters should always use caution when using a firearm. They offer the following safety tips for hunters:

- See and accurately identify the whole turkey. Don't shoot at just one piece of what may be an illegal or unsafe situation.

- Never shoot at movement or sound.

- Don't stalk a turkey or sneak up for a shot.

- If you use a head net, make sure your vision is not obscured.

- If you are hunting with a buddy, know exactly where he is.

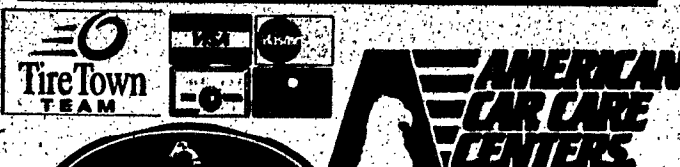
- When you harvest a gobbler, completely conceal the bird in a sack or backpack before walking out of the woods.

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BUSINESS NEWS

SA- THE SEA COAST ECHO—SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 1998

Program to address trade logistics issues

Scores of regional executives in the fields of international trade and distribution will gather April 7 on the Gulf Coast for a special program on a key element of global marketing.

Titled "A Seminar on Global Logistics," the day-long program at Gulfport's Grand Hotel is expected to draw participants from Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana. Mississippi State University President Malcolm Porter will deliver the opening address at 8:30 a.m.

The seminar is co-sponsored by MSU's College of Business and Industry and the Georgia Institute of Technology's Center for International Business Education and Research, along with 11 businesses and government agencies. A U.S. Department of Education grant is funding most of the event.

Also speaking will be Anthony J. Taormina, executive director of the Mississippi State

Port Authority in Gulfport, and Georgia Tech researchers Maria R. Rey and John R. McIntyre.

"Global logistics represents nearly 30 percent of the world's gross national product, yet the general level of understanding of global logistics is low," said MSU's Edwin H. Duett Jr.

The seminar will address "the principal global logistic strategies, including performance measures, inventory strategies, and international transportation and distribution," said Duett, who, along with MSU business college colleague Richard L. Still, is coordinating the event.

Joining Mississippi State and Georgia Tech as seminar sponsors are the Hancock Bank, Harrison County Development Commission, International Trade Club of Mississippi, Jackson County Port Authority/Port

of Pascagoula, state Department of Economic and Community Development, Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce, Mississippi State Port Authority at Gulfport, Mississippi Power Co., Peoples

Bank, Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District, and the World Trade Center of New Orleans. For additional information, call Janis Bryant at (601) 325-8475.

U.S. Navy award to Ingalls totals \$2.8 billion

Ingalls Shipbuilding division of Litton Industries has been awarded a contract with a potential value of approximately \$2.8 billion to build eight additional DDG 51 Class Aegis guided missile destroyers for the United States Navy.

The contract includes the immediate award of six ships, and contract options for a seventh and eighth ship. The contract is part of a multiyear procurement plan under which the Navy is awarding multiple ships under a single contract.

"The construction of Aegis destroyers continues as a major, strategic element of Ingalls' present and future business base," said Jerry St. Pe, senior vice president of Litton Industries and president of Ingalls Shipbuilding.

"The multiyear ship award brings important stability to the Aegis destroyer program and to our company's future business planning process. Efficiency in building these destroyers, an area in which Ingalls has excelled, provides the means to build these ships in the numbers necessary to fully support the Navy's missions," St. Pe said.

The Navy plans to order a

total of 57 ships in the DDG 51 program. The announcement brings the total awarded thus far to 52, with the remaining five ships planned for award in the years 2002 and 2003. Based on the eight-ship award to Ingalls, the company will have received contracts for 25 Aegis destroyers, with 11 of these ships already delivered—each ahead of schedule and under budget.

"Delivery dates on the eight new ships extend into 2006, and will keep our experienced, seasoned destroyer builders engaged into the 21st century," St. Pe said. He added that Ingalls' workforce is currently at 10,600, and is expected to grow by several hundred over the next year.

Much of the equipment for the ships awarded is already on order under advance procurement contract which allowed Ingalls to place orders for equipment for the ships included in the multiyear plan.

Last May Ingalls was awarded a \$164.5 million contract to begin this advance procurement, which permitted the shipyard and its suppliers to plan for multiship procurement, saving the taxpayers millions of dollars.

The Navy's Aegis Fleet provides primary protection for the Navy's battle forces. Aegis destroyers, designed to match maximum survivability with potent offensive capability, are 505 feet long, with a beam of 66 feet. Four gas turbine engines power the 8,850-ton ships to speeds in excess of 30 knots.

The destroyers' Aegis Combat System is the world's foremost naval weapons system. As the U.S. Navy's first Aegis shipbuilder, Ingalls delivered 19 ships in the 27-ship Toconderoga (CG 47) Class of guided missile cruisers.

Litton Industries, headquartered in Woodland Hills, Calif., Ingalls parent company since 1961, is a leader in worldwide technology markets for advanced defense, electronic and information systems.

Williams opens consulting firm

Brynn Williams, former communications director of the Harrison County Tourism Commission, has recently opened B.H.W. Enterprises, a consulting firm specializing in marketing, public relations and special events.

Williams, a Biloxi native, has over 10 years of marketing communications and event planning experience. She has worked for clients in the tourism, financial services, health-care and telecommunication industries and served as director of marketing and account planner for one of the top 25 agencies in the Northeast.

Services include strategic planning, communications audits, market analysis, grant writing, collateral development, media relations, travel and feature writing, and special event coordination for individuals and groups.

For information, contact Williams at (228) 374-1936 or on the Internet at brynnw@datacyn.com.

Garden Park recognizes employees

Columbia Garden Park Hospital recognized its own Feb. 28. Among those honored were the employees celebrating their 20th anniversary with the hospital, who are Gysie McLean, Richard Bell, Joseph Vasterling and Dot Prior.

Those with 15 years of service include Annie Hall, Diane Reyer, Sandra Dobbs, Mark Harshbarger, Deborah Lingach, Elizabeth Covington, Larry Wesson, Lee Harper and Reba Smith.

Those with 10 years of service are Evangeline Gooden, Louis Moore, Anita Sanzin, Joe Spence, Deborah Bedington, Linus Medley and Corazon Brooks.

Individuals with five years of service include Mavis Newell, Alice Vincent, Betty Davis, Tina McGinty, Les Handlin, Marena Trotter, Terri Brock, Eva Brown and Donna Miller.

On the Employee Committee served Karris Hummel, Whitney Roosa, Ann Ball, Jan Hiles, Natalie Noonan, Pauline Thomas, Colleen Smith, Sandy Watson, Zane Perrin, Rose Stankard, Lynn Breland, Cheryl Kerr, Fran Bledsole, Annie Wilkerson, Jennie Conley, Robin Marble and Nancy Hand.

The 1997 service awards banquet began at 6 p.m. with a social hour. Everyone enjoyed viewing some of the pictures representing each of the milestone years. At 6:50 p.m. the audience received an invocation by Natalie Noonan, and dinner followed.

Garden Park Human Resources Director Cathy Benvenuti presented the awards, and remarks were given by the hospital's chairman of the board, Mike Matthews, and CEO William Peaks.

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Two Ways To Get The Information You Need About Your New IRA Options:

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The bad news is the people who write our tax law have made things even more complex. The good news is you have more options than ever. The guide below is an attempt to simplify things in print. You can figure out your options if you study it carefully. But why bother? Come into any Hancock Bank and let us help you turn the confusion to your advantage.

Making the Right Choice

These 3 scenarios portray typical situations and possible choices. Although your own situation may closely resemble one of these, keep in mind that the right decision for you depends on a careful review of your own needs and resources.

Scenario 1: Tom and Anne Murphy are a two income couple in their late 20's with one child. Their primary goal is to pay for their child's education. They have invested almost all of their savings to purchase last year. With an annual income of \$49,000 and no established retirement account yet, they know they need to start a program soon. Which program is best?

Recommendation: Tom and Anne might begin contributing to a Roth IRA because it may provide a higher after-tax return if they expect their tax rate to remain the same or increase in future years.

Scenario 2: Trish and Allen Scioto are in their late 40's with two children in college. Allen, the only income earner, has \$46,000 in a traditional IRA, \$76,500 in his employer's 401(k) program (into which he contributes 12% of his annual salary), and an additional \$63,000 in stocks and mutual funds. The Sciotos owe \$111,000 on their \$215,000 residence, with the mortgage scheduled to pay off in 15 years. Under the new tax laws, should the Sciotos consider changing their retirement programs?

Recommendation: Assuming the Scioto's adjusted annual income on their joint return is less than \$100,000 and they will be in a higher tax bracket in the future, they may consider a roll-over of their traditional IRA into a Roth IRA in 1998 and pay the taxes over four years. This will allow the balance to grow tax-free as well as future contributions and earnings. In addition, Allen could continue to participate in his employer's 401(k) plan, especially if his employer matches his contributions. If not, he may need to compare the return on his 401(k) investment to a self-directed Roth IRA.

Scenario 3: Alice Jenkins is 63 and plans to retire next year. Her employer's retirement plan plus Social Security will generate \$3,850 per month, about 85% of her present income. Alice has \$173,000 in a traditional IRA, plus \$126,000 in bonds and mutual funds. With no spouse, two children and three grandchildren, she has no immediate needs to support anyone other than herself. However, she would like to help with the educational costs of her grandchildren. Alice has read a little about new investment vehicles. Should Alice make a change in her investments?

Recommendation: Assuming \$3,850 is enough for Alice to live comfortably on during her retirement, she might begin contributing to Education IRAs for her three grandchildren. Also, if Alice doesn't have a need to begin taking distributions from her traditional IRA at age 70 1/2, she may consider rolling it over into a Roth IRA. The money can then be passed on to her heirs and withdrawn tax-free at a later date.

Retirement Plan Comparison

	Traditional IRA	Roth IRA	Education IRA	Simplified Employee Pension Plan (SEP)	KEOGH
Eligibility	Anyone under age 70 1/2 with earned income or whose spouse has earned income (subject to active participation rules)	Anyone with adjusted annual income below \$110,000 (single) or \$160,000 (joint)	Contributors: Anyone with adjusted annual income below \$110,000 (single) or \$160,000 (joint). Beneficiary: Under age 18 and not covered under a state prepayment program	Employees (and self-employed individuals) over age 21 who have satisfied the minimum service requirement allowed by law	Employees (and self-employed individuals) who have satisfied employer's minimum age and service requirements (with certain restrictions)
Maximum Annual Contribution	The individual, lesser of \$9,000 or earned income (percentage of all IRAs); special earned income rules for married individuals	The individual, lesser of \$9,000 or earned income (percentage of all IRAs); special earned income rules for married individuals	\$500 per beneficiary	15% of employee's compensation	Lesser of \$30,000 or 25% of earned income, depending on type of plan
Tax Considerations - Contributions	Tax deductible (subject to phase out for active participation of owner or spouse in an employer-sponsored retirement plan)	Not tax deductible. Contributions are permitted after age 70 1/2	Not tax deductible	Contributions deductible to employee; contributions and investment earnings tax-deferred to participants	Contributions deductible to employee; contributions and investment earnings tax-deferred to participants
Tax Considerations - Withdrawals	Taxable at current tax rate when distributions are made	Tax-free if withdrawal is paid to beneficiary over age 59 1/2, due to death or disability, or for qualifying first-time home buyer expenses and contribution has been in account for 5 years	Non-taxable to the extent spent on qualifying higher education expenses	Taxable at current tax rate when distributions are made	Generally taxable at current tax rate when distributions are made
Withdrawal of Assets	After age 59 1/2 may be subject to 10% penalty tax except if used to buy first home (\$10,000 limit) or pay for higher education expenses after 1953/97	After age 59 1/2 may be subject to 10% penalty tax	Qualified distribution for tuition, fees, books, supplies, equipment, room and board must be made during year in which education expense incurred and before child reaches the age of 30. If distribution exceeds education expense, additional 10% penalty levied on earnings if subject to taxes and possibly a 10% penalty if designated beneficiary decides not to pursue higher education; account can be transferred to another member of same family (as defined by law)	After age 59 1/2 may be subject to tax, penalty unless employee dies or is disabled (Contact other extensions apply)	Generally three options: • Withdrawal of investments over a term of years • Lump-sum fully taxable in year received • Roll over into an IRA or another employer's plan
Mandatory Lifetime Distributions	Must begin by April 1 following the year the owner turns 70 1/2	No requirement to begin at age 70 1/2	Requirement to complete distributions by age 30	Must begin by April 1 following the year the participant turns age 70 1/2	Must begin by April 1 following the year the participant turns age 70 1/2



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BUSINESS NEWS

THE SEA COAST ECHO—SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 1998-9A

Avoid yesterday's hot fund

"Show me the money." That four-word sentence became last year's catch phrase thanks to the hit movie "Jerry Maguire."

In the movie, the phrase "show me the money" referred to a football contract. In real life, it could apply to mutual funds. Everyone wants to see the money—that's why mutual funds talk about past performance and some brokers recommend hot funds.

Past performance figures are important because no one can predict a fund's future performance. After all, if you can't look at a fund's record, what can you look at?

However, be sure you look far enough back in time, and don't use past performance as your only criterion in choosing mutual funds. Too many investors are short-term performance-chasers. Their investing guideline is finding the hottest fund on the latest hit parade list.

If this is your yardstick, you'll be interested in a recent study by Dalbar Inc., an investment research and publishing firm. Dalbar found that many funds perform

extremely well when they have relatively few investors, but as the shareholder base balloons, the fund often falters.

This finding was exemplified in an article in Registered Representative magazine. The article discussed one of investing guru Peter Lynch's favorite mutual funds, now one of the biggest funds in the country. According to the article, Lynch scored his biggest gains from this fund when it counted less than \$1 billion in assets, "including a few superb years when the fund wasn't even open to the public."

The lessons here are: (1) it's easier to make significant

FINANCIAL FOCUS

Submitted by Craig Foster
Edward Jones Co.

percentage gains with smaller assets; and (2) the mutual fund manager who achieved those gains has to stay on the job. These are important considerations when reviewing a fund's past performance results.

The Dalbar study also showed that the funds themselves typically do better than the individual investors, mainly because investors focus too much on past performance without understanding that those figures are for the long term. For example, a fund with a long-term return of, say, 12 percent annually, may have fared quite differently for an investor who held it for only two or three years. One investment professional told Registered Representative magazine it takes about 20 years to determine if a mutual fund manager is skillful or just plain lucky.

Investors often jump ship when long-term expectations don't work out overnight. Dalbar found that this is the reason many individual investors' results may underperform their funds' results. Stock fund investors tend to hold on to their funds an aver-

age of three years. This doesn't allow a fund to benefit from a complete stock market cycle.

For example, from January 1984 through December 1996, the S&P 500 Index posted a compound annual return of 16 percent. Yet Dalbar estimates that investors who bought stock funds through brokers earned 6.2 percent a year. Those who bought do-it-yourself funds earned even less—6 percent annually on average. The reason: These investors did not hold their funds for the full period.

Most professionals agree that the best way to make money in mutual funds is to select a short list of outstanding fund groups. Learn everything you can about the funds in that family, choose those that meet your objectives, and stick with them. Build a well-diversified mutual fund portfolio based on your long-term objectives. This is your map to financial security. Don't invest out of your rearview mirror, continuously jumping to the most recent hot fund.

If you want a mutual fund to show you the money, buy quality and hold it for the long term.

Booth space available for Senior Market Expo

Reservations are now being taken for booth space for the Senior Market Expo to be held May 8 in the Mississippi Coast Coliseum & Convention Center in Biloxi.

Booth space is \$150 for non-profit organizations, \$300 for business displays, and \$2,500 for a presenting sponsorship. All exhibitors receive a 10 x

10 curtained booth except for presenting sponsors, who receive a 10 x 20 booth. Booth space is available on a first-come first-served basis.

Exhibitors interested in the senior citizen market can get more information by calling the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce at 863-2942.

5 local residents earn real estate licenses

Real estate license examinations were held for the months of January and February in Jackson for those persons desiring to enter the field of real estate sales, rentals and other related real estate activities.

Fourteen individuals sitting for the broker-examination successfully completed the requirements and will now become licensed real estate brokers. 125 individuals sitting for the salespersons examination successfully completed the requirements and will now be awarded the salespersons license.

The examination consists of 100 questions prepared by the American College Testing Services (ACT) for real estate license law officials across the United States and Canada. Applicants are questioned concerning the Mississippi real estate law and rules and regulations governing their activities in that vocation.

There are approximately 5,838 salespersons, 4,437 brokers and 1,355 real estate companies and corporations licensed by the Mississippi Real Estate Commission.

Commissioner Lenny Sawyer, 5th Congressional District, Gulfport, announces the

following have been issued licenses:

Salespersons: Cynthia Manner, Amy Schaefer and Donald Goudeau, all of Bay St. Louis; Bob Smith of Waveland and Tami James of Diamondhead.

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AUTOZONE INC/AZO	32 1/8	-1 1/8
CALGON CARBON/CCC	11 1/2	-3/8
CASINO MAGIC/CMAG	2 1/4	+1/8
CHEVRON CORP/CHV	86 1/8	+4 1/8
COCA COLA/CO	17 1/8	+5 1/8
CSX CORP/CSX	59 1/8	+2 1/8
DUPONT/DD	70 1/8	+7 1/8
EUROPA CRUISE/KRUZ	2 1/2	UNCH.
GENERAL ELEC/GE	81 1/8	+3 1/8
GOODYEAR TIRE/GT	74 1/2	+5 1/8
GRAND CASINO/GND	16 1/8	-1/8
HALTER MARINE/HLX	14 1/8	+1/8
HANCOCK HOLDING CO/HBHC	61 1/8	+1/8
INTL BUSINESS MACHINE/IBM	102 1/8	+2 1/8
INTL PAPER CO/IP	49 1/8	+1 1/8
K MART CORP/KM	16 1/8	+1/8
LOCKHEED MARTIN/LMT	117	+2 1/8
MCDONALDS CORP/MCD	51 1/8	-3/8
REGIONS FINANCIAL/RGBR	41 1/8	+1 1/8
ROCKWELL INTL CORP/ROK	54 1/8	-5 1/8
SOUTHERN COMPANY/SO	27 1/8	+1 1/8
TENNECO INC/TEN	43	-1/8
UNION PLANTERS/UPC	63 1/8	+2 1/8
WAL MART STORES/WMT	50 1/8	-1 1/8
WELLMAN INC/WLM	21 1/8	+1/8
WHITNEY HOLDING/WTNY	59 1/8	-1/8

Submitted by Craig Foster, Edward D. Jones Co.

Time management seminar

Time-wasters and procrastinators can learn how to better manage and spend their time March 26 at the University of Southern Mississippi Time-Quest seminar.

USM's Department of Continuing Education is offering the seminar to help individuals increase productivity through value-based time management.

The seminar is designed to provide skills and tools to help balance demands on time, help focus on priorities, and accomplish what matters most in personal and professional life.

The seminar will be held 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at USM's Hattiesburg campus in the R. C. Cook

Union. Registration is from 8:15-9 a.m.

Fees, which include a Franklin planner and other instructional material, are \$135 for USM employees, \$180 for non-profit organizations and \$195 for all others.

More than 8,000 organizations and 3.5 million people have benefited from Time-Quest training and the Franklin Daily Planner System. This seminar's instructor will be USM Human Resources manager Carol Bolivar, a certified Franklin facilitator.

For information, call (601) 266-4184.



Vacation giveaway

Patrick Wild, left, manager of the Diamondhead branch of Peoples Bank, pulls the winning raffle ticket for a four-day, three-night vacation getaway donated by the bank to charity. Winner was Shane Hickman of Poplarville. Conducting the raffle was Gaits to Success, a kiln-based therapeutic equestrian center for the disabled. Holding the feed bucket of raffle tickets is Bill Acton, barn manager of Gaits.

Winn-Dixie Louisiana names new pharmacy coordinator

Winn-Dixie Stores, Inc. has announced the appointment of Tommy Greene to pharmacy coordinator of Winn-Dixie Louisiana, Inc.

Greene is replacing Mike LeBlanc who will become pharmacy training coordinator at Winn-Dixie Stores, Inc. headquartered in Jacksonville, Fla. The announcement was made by Raymond Lunn, president, Winn-Dixie Louisiana.

Greene will oversee the operations of 20 in-store pharmacies throughout Louisiana and Mississippi. His responsibilities include hiring and placement of

pharmacists, setting policy and procedures and ensuring all operations satisfy industry standards.

Winn-Dixie Stores, Inc. is one of the nation's largest supermarket retailers with over 1,100 stores in 14 states and the Bahamas. Winn-Dixie Louisiana operates 86 stores throughout Louisiana and Mississippi.

For information on Winn-Dixie, visit the website at www.winndixie.com.

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Tax

The Bay City Council voted Tuesday to seek the legislation.

The Development Bureau currently receives proceeds of a two percent tax on

accommodations.

In other news from Waveland, the Board approved letters of agreement and the subsequent contract between the

city and the Hancock County Wastewater District #1 regarding the sale of sewer lines, two lift stations and other equipment.

A motion to reclassify \$15,000 allocated to engineering fees in the Sewer Department to Capital Outlay in the Public Works Department for the anticipated purchase of a

used tandem dump truck was tabled.

Alderman Louis Smolenaky made the motion to table the matter stating that more information was needed on the matter which would require an amendment to the budget.

Alderman Al Kingston echoed Smolenaky's concerns and Alderman Jay Fleuret seconded the motion.

The city has previously advertised for bids on the used dumptruck, but none were accepted.

Mason expressed concern over needing the truck to haul heavy equipment, but Aldermen agreed to re-advertise for bids on the used tandem dump truck while taking a closer look at the proposed transfer of funds.

The board approved a municipal three-year lease-purchase agreement between the city and Hancock Bank at

Continued from Page 1A

4.48 percent on a principal amount of \$100,000 for the purchase of six police cars and one police truck for the Police Department.

Phase II of the Garfield Leiner Municipal Pier extension project was accepted as substantially complete pending receipt of a letter from Eaton and Associates, the engineers on the project.

The Board approved the appointment of Carlos Lizanna as an Election Commissioner.

A plaque was presented to Sylvester Harrington for 25 years of service to the city in the streets department.

Approval was given to co-sponsor a Chambers After Hours with the Waveland Library Literacy Center at a cost to the city not to exceed \$500.

The Board approved a proclamation declaring April "Child Abuse Prevention Month."

Supers

wanted to know how community leaders felt about adding the ability to add the tax to the current legislation that levies a two percent tax on hotels and bed-and-breakfast lodging in the county. Favre said the action would not commit the cities or

the counties to levy the tax, but would open up debate on the possibility.

Favre got 4-1 approval to support the enabling legislation, and Wednesday night Waveland's Board of Aldermen unanimously lent their

support.

But, at Friday's recess meeting, District 4 Supervisor Steve Seymour said supervisors had received nothing from the Tourism Development Commission informing them of plans to seek

Continued from Page 1A

the enabling legislation.

"But, if the press wants to know, I'm against it. It will affect the local people," said Seymour.

District 3 Supervisor Lisa Coward said she would want to talk to the restaurant owners and others in the food and beverage business before she would support any additional tax.

District 2 Supervisor Rocky Pullman said, "I'm not voting for any tax increase, and that's definitely a tax increase. The people have had enough in Hancock County."

District 1 Supervisor Jeep Ladner said he supported the tax on lodging, "but not on food and beverages."

Board President Philip Moran said he supported the lodging tax, but remains firm in his opposition to taxing food and beverages.

"You're going to tax mom and pop taking the kids out to eat," said Moran.

In other business, supervisors voted 5-0 on a request by Coward to make an interfund loan from Seawall funds to repair the Dunbar and Washington street piers knocked out during the storm of Feb. 15.

Road Supt. Dewey Bobings was asked to inspect damage to both piers, and give estimates on what it might cost to repair them.

Both projects would have to be put out to public bid.

Pass

McNeil said the corporation is a member of the state's Rapid Response Team and will assist the dislocated workers.

McNeil said a representative from her office and the Mississippi Employment Training Division would meet with company representatives on Monday to set up an orientation session for the laid-off workers.

The Rapid Response Team

consists of: the state Department of Economic and Community Development; the Department of Human Resources; the Mississippi Cooperative Extension Service; Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College; and the state Employment Service.

"The Rapid Response Team will meet with the affected workers either on or off the

Continued from Page 1A

clock to provide information on educational opportunities, job placement assistance, unemployment benefits, stress counseling, public assistance and financial assistance in the local area," McNeil wrote McDonald.

"Our goal is to provide assistance to these individuals as quickly as possible to ensure a strong support system during this layoff period," he said.

Safety

City officials had asked Mississippi Department of Transportation officials to reconsider the closing, before it happened.

They did -- and stuck by their contention that safety considerations required the action. Longfellow's intersection with Highway 90 is a 20-degree angle, making a left turn from Highway 90 onto Longfellow practically a U-Turn, said District Engineer Richard E. Turner. Motorists are left in almost a "head to head conflict with traffic in the westbound lanes," Turner added.

Frisbee had discussed with Shows the idea of a traffic signal

at the site, in lieu of the closing.

That's a possibility, Shows said Thursday, but it would have to be justified first by traffic flow studies and/or accident rate statistics. At a cost of some \$70,000 for a traffic-activated signal, Shows said MDOT couldn't justify putting a signal there, since closing the crossing was relatively inexpensive.

If justification can be made for a signal he said, and if the engineers agreed to that as an alternative, Shows said he would support placing a signal light at the intersection.

But he said reopening the intersection at this time without a light is a dead issue. That would

Continued from Page 1A

require Shows to persuade the Highway Commission to vote to override the engineers' position. Shows said even if he could get the votes for an override, he wouldn't try to. That would leave him and every other commissioner personally liable if accidents later resulted, he said.

On another Highway 90 matter, Shows said workers soon should be paving areas where asphalt has been scrapped away, creating several serious drops for motorists to battle.

Weather has impeded progress on the project, he said, but added: "I'll talk to them. They should be in there pretty quick overlying."

Spring

Both the Bay-Waveland Garden Club and the Gather-Ye-Rosebud Rose Society will be hosting on Thursday April 2 in Bay St. Louis and Waveland.

Gather-Ye-Rosebuds will host five house tours, four in Waveland and one in Bay St. Louis, and one garden tour in Waveland. The Hancock County Tourist Development Bureau Office will open from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. with brochures and maps.

The Bay-Waveland Garden Club will host a variety of tours including a bed and breakfast, a cemetery, an antique shop, and

the Hancock County Historical Society in addition to several homes and two gardens. The Bay-Waveland Garden Center will be open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. for maps and information.

"This year is the first year of our second half-century and we're trying to start with a bang," said Hyman of the Bay-Waveland tours. "There are 18 stops in the Bay-Waveland area encompassing every style of architecture, historic places and buildings."

Many area shops and businesses have brochures on the pilgrimage available to the

Continued from Page 1A

public. "In our area, we have a wide variety to choose from," said Hyman. "There is something for everyone."

For more information on the Pilgrimage in Hancock County call the Hancock County Tourism Development Bureau at 1-800-466-9048 or (228)463-9222. In Harrison County call the Mississippi Gulf Coast Convention and Visitors Bureau at 1-800-237-9493.

Note: Beginning today the Echo will run a Pilgrimage schedule which will list the date of the local tours as well as the stops complete with addresses.

Pass to restructure docking fees

BY ED LEPOMA
Mayor Billy McDonald plans to restructure docking fees in the Pass Christian harbor in the wake of a judge's ruling that threw out charges assessed certain fishermen last September.

McDonald and the Board of Aldermen discussed the matter briefly in a recess meeting Tuesday, but the mayor said he wanted to delay any action until the end of the current oyster season.

In a ruling last week, City Court Judge Frank P. Wittman III maintained the harbor ordinance was unconstitutional because of its vague definition of "transient" renters.

Longtime fisherman Eley Ross of Biloxi filed the suit. His boats fish oyster reefs off Pass Christian and Bay St. Louis, and dock at the harbor to unload and stay the night.

Ross contested the portion of the ordinance that directed transient's rental fees would be 50 cents per linear foot whether such vessel is assigned a slip or moored to the East wall of the harbor.

Ross's monthly rental fee jumped from \$77 to \$750 per month since he was determined to be a "transient" under the statute.

Wittman ruled the ordinance was too vague in that the term "transient" was not defined in the ordinance nor any other ordinance applying to harbor fees.

"If Mr. Ross, who uses the harbor for approximately six months out of the year can be determined as a transient, the whole question relies on the arbitrary determination of the Harbor Master or some other person..." said Wittman.

"Numerous attempts have been made by government entities to tax nonresident fishermen more than resident fishermen in the form of licenses, rental fees, taxes and other forms of increased levies," said Wittman. "In practically all cases, the courts have determined that without the showing of a compelling state interest, the courts have found that the statutes violated the privileges and immunities of the Constitu-

tion...and...the Fourteenth Amendment's equal protection clause," Wittman added.

McDonald estimates "about 15 to 20" fishermen were classified transients, and their rates were increased, along with rates for all others using the harbor.

He said he wants to draft a new fee ordinance "that is fair to everyone," but the judge's ruling resulted in the harbor losing a substantial amount of money to operate.

Although ruling in the fisherman's favor, Wittman's order was not retroactive, and means that Ross cannot go back to the city to recover the fees he has paid since last October.

NARFE meeting

The regular meeting of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, Buccaneer Chapter 1729, will be Tuesday, March 24, at the Bay-Waveland Yacht Club. Social time begins

at 11:30 a.m. followed by lunch at noon.

This is the organization's 18th birthday, and all members are urged to bring door prizes.

UM Wind Ensemble performs

The University of Mobile Wind Ensemble will perform Monday, April 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the Saenger Theatre in Mobile. Admission is \$3 at the door. UM students with a current ID will be admitted free. The public is invited to enjoy

this spring performance by the 45-piece ensemble under the direction of Dr. Byron Dargatzis, associate professor of music.

For information, call the UM Department of Fine Arts at (334) 675-5999, ext. 324.

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Fifty-first annual Spring Pilgrimage

DIAMONDHEAD
Wednesday, April 1-10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Chairman: Margaret Williamson
Hostesses: Diamondhead Garden Club

1. HEADQUARTERS, DIAMONDHEAD COMMUNITY CENTER, note the beautiful landscaping by the Property Owner's Association Ground's Maintenance Crew. Coffee, brochures and maps available. View the lovely flowers and arrangements of Diamondhead Garden Club members for their annual Standard Flower Show.

2. DIAMONDHEAD COMMUNITY CHURCH & MEMORIAL GARDENS, 5301 Diamondhead Circle. The Sanctuary was completed in December 1991. It is surrounded on three sides by glass and decorated in nuances of green and blue. The natural wood ceiling climbs toward a windowed cupola that splashes the center of the room in natural light. The Memorial Garden: A winding brick and cement walk bordered with Liriodendron leads from the rear parking lot through the garden. A plaque in honor of Marjorie R. Lange, acknowledging the inspiration for the garden, is the floor between two benches. Thirty nine garden "Founders" are recognized by a plaque located adjacent to the entry walkway. Among the plants enhancing the garden are a sweet olive tree, dwarf magnolias, Leland cypress trees, plum delight Chinese fringe flowers, forsythia, Vanhoutte Spirea, white flowering dogwoods, spathicillum, numerous varieties of azaleas and camellias. Day lilies encircle the three large oak trees. Many of these lovely shrubs were donated by members and friends of the congregation.

3. HOME OF MRS. PATRICE DONAHUE, #7 Wilderness Run. This has been added to the pilgrimage to show the wide range of housing available in Diamondhead. A two bedroom, two bath cottage in The Oaks, it is the smallest of the Diamondhead offerings. The 1,020 square feet have provided cozy comfort for the owner since 1993. At the time of purchase, an owner enclosed carport, and a small deck area were added to the back. Those who enter The Oaks will find a charming oasis of common back yards, cul-de-sacs, and serene landscapes. The lawns are maintained by The Oaks Property Owners Association, as are the common areas. A dedicated Board of Directors decorates the entrance at holidays and takes responsibility for the park.

4. HOME OF COLONEL AND MRS. CHUCK INGRAHAM, USMC (RET.), 7437 Mahalo-Hoi Drive. This open floor plan home was completed in 1986 by Jones Builders. It was designed by the owners to take advantage of the view of the Cardinal Golf Course; the focus of the 17 glass doors/windows facing north brings the outdoors into the home. The house features an open living area which includes the kitchen, breakfast and family rooms. Additionally, the covered lanai adds depth to the open feeling which is enhanced by the 10 foot ceilings throughout. Decor includes a "panda bedroom" featuring a Japanese wedding Kimono. Other furniture, paintings and rugs recount the 30 years the Ingrahams spent traveling and collecting throughout the United States and the Far East.

5. HOME OF MR. AND MRS. LEN KRICK, 9616 Kini Place. "Lakeview", the distinctive 5,400 square foot, single level contemporary Mediterranean home with a panoramic view of Twin Lake, was built in 1992. The dramatic exterior features bold relief effects, triple-board fascia, tiered privacy walls, divided-light windows with elliptical transoms, and a lushly landscaped walkway, which leads to the glass entryway with 17 foot ceiling. The open interior features an 86 foot free span with 12 and 14 foot ceilings, rounded corners, mirrored display niches, and marble window sills. The gourmet kitchen overlooks a skylighted family room, which features a unique 22 foot media wall. The elevated

dining room has an inlaid hardwood floor and reverse tray ceiling. The home is decorated with original contemporary artwork and pottery, silk plants and a map of North America, drawn in 1641.

6. GARDENS OF JIM AND DIANA ISRAEL, 96456 Diamondhead Drive West. The eastern side of this one acre property contains a canopy of pines and oaks providing shade to over 100 azaleas and numerous dogwoods—some mature and blooming. A large variety of partial shade-loving shrubs are maintained by lots of tender loving care, fertilizer and mulch. The northern portion is home to numerous gardenias, camellias and lovely potted plants. A portion is left in the natural state for wildlife. The western sunny side is home to a variety of azaleas, altheas, crepe myrtles, many other shrubs, bedding plants and even a vegetable garden.

7. DIAMONDHEAD YACHT CLUB, 3410 Yacht Club Drive, South of Interstate 10. A Dutch treat luncheon, soup and (heavy) salad bar, \$8.50 incl. tax and gratuity. For information please call 228-255-2925.

8. HOME OF BOB AND KARLY LEGERE, 978 Kaimuki Street. A unique, beautiful log home called "The Viking" nestled among the woods surrounded by the former Diamondhead Stable area is a natural setting for this jewel completed in the fall of 1995. Made from Southern pine "D" shape interlocking logs making the exterior and interior a natural finish with clear stain. When entering the foyer, you are greeted with 10 different grains of wood leading to the sunken great room where a custom made fireplace beautifies the living area. The kitchen and dining area has a full view of the great room and upstairs loft. The master bedroom is west of the living area and opens to a sun room which is supported by a large deck, with a hot tub overlooking the once stable area. Upstairs are two bedrooms, one on each side of the loft, with a large bathroom and stairway sharing the front dormer. Every square inch of the home is used, i.e. under stairs storage, and half bathroom off the foyer. This home has a cozy laid-back atmosphere that welcomes you with its eye catching and very warm interior.

9. DIAMONDHEAD ACADEMY NATURE TRAIL, 88360 Diamondhead Drive East. In 1996, Academy Principal Ms.

Derinda Cain, began to implement her goal of establishing an outdoor, living laboratory for the Diamondhead Academy students. The area to be used was originally designated a Nature Trail in 1991 and is located in the wooded area behind the Academy. With the direction and assistance of Mr. Patrick LaNasa, who is a Master Gardener through the Cooperative Extension Service of Hancock and Harrison counties, the project is rapidly progressing. Over the past year an entry sign has been constructed and installed, a butterfly garden created, trees identified and labeled, butterfly and bat houses constructed and several new projects are now underway.

10. HOME OF MR. AND MRS. FRANK A. ORR, JR., 792 Lanai Street. The home, set on two lots, is located on the 4th green of the Pines Golf Course. The property was landscaped in an untraditional style—such as the use of tropical plants highlighting the front of the residence and butterfly garden on the south side of the home. Built in 1995, the home is a Mediterranean stucco and brick design. The open floor plan is designed for modern living, yet the home is furnished with "Old Mississippi Plantation" style furnishings.

11. HOME OF MR. AND MRS. JOHN PEARSON, 320 Puunani Place. This raised story and a half Louisiana plantation home was built with a combination of several New Orleans style homes in mind. At the front of the house, a wide stairway gives access to the front gallery which is enclosed with white fluted columns. Also showing on the front of the house is a mahogany and glass door reflecting the crystal chandelier which hangs in the central hall. Though built along traditional plans used in many Louisiana dwellings, it has several unusual architectural features including custom millwork and molding throughout the house, ceiling heights of 20 feet in the foyer and stairwell accented with wrought iron railing and a heart of pine banister. Old beaded cypress wood salvaged from a home in New Orleans was used to accent the ceiling in the sitting room, and salvaged heart pine was used for the first level flooring. The home is decorated with primarily French antiques but combines some contemporary accents for a more eclectic feel. The rear of the house opens onto a gallery which extends the length of the house and enjoys a view of the marsh grasses and the Bay of St. Louis.



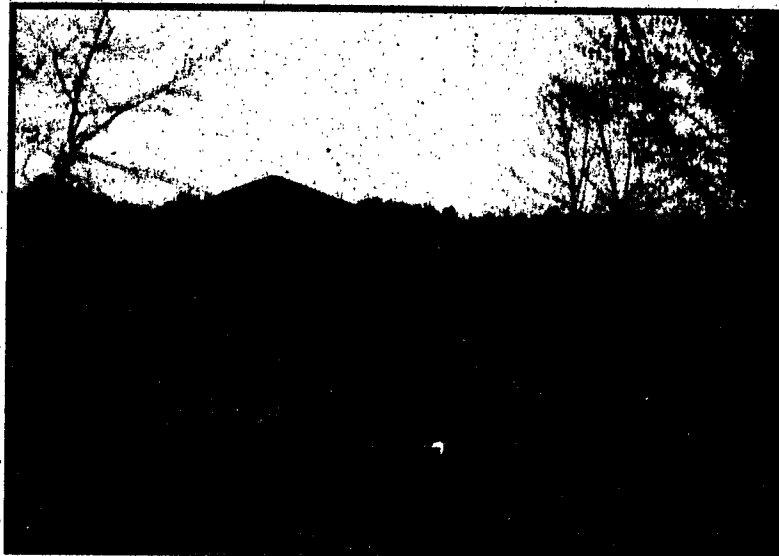
Diamondhead Community Church & Memorial Gardens



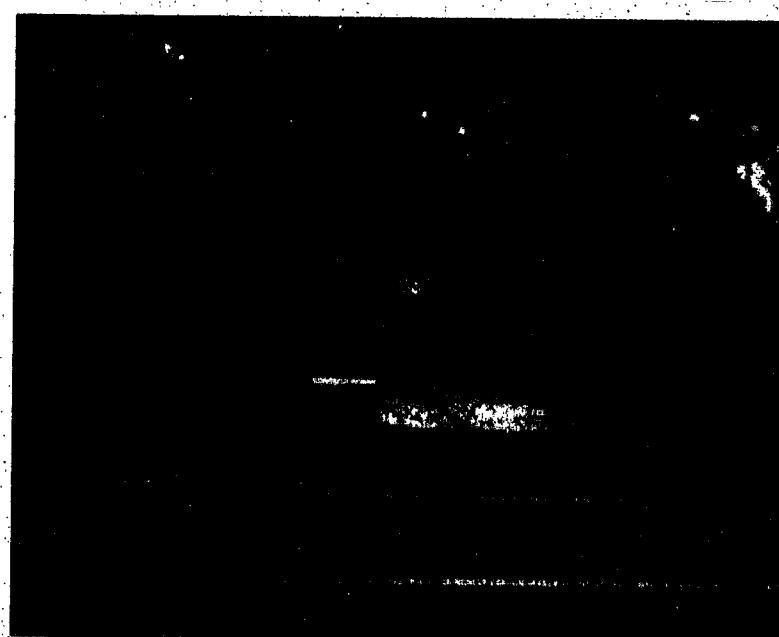
Home of Mrs. Patrice Donahue



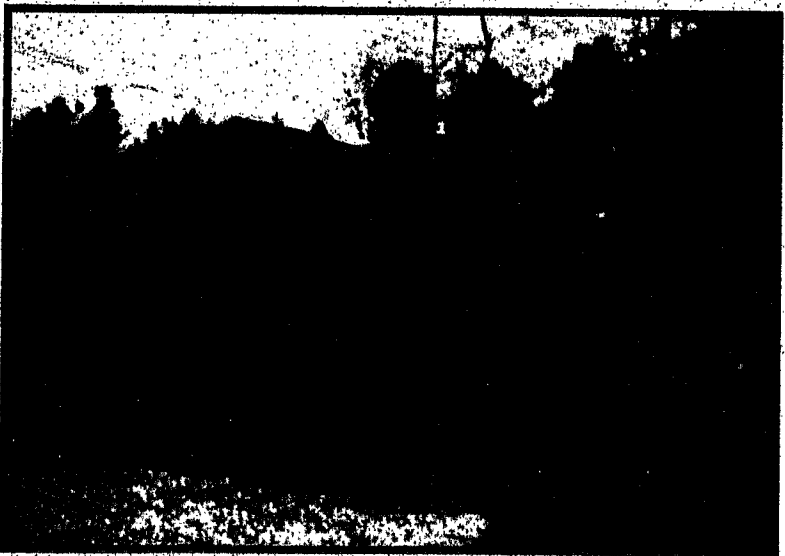
Home of Colonel and Mrs. Chuck Ingraham



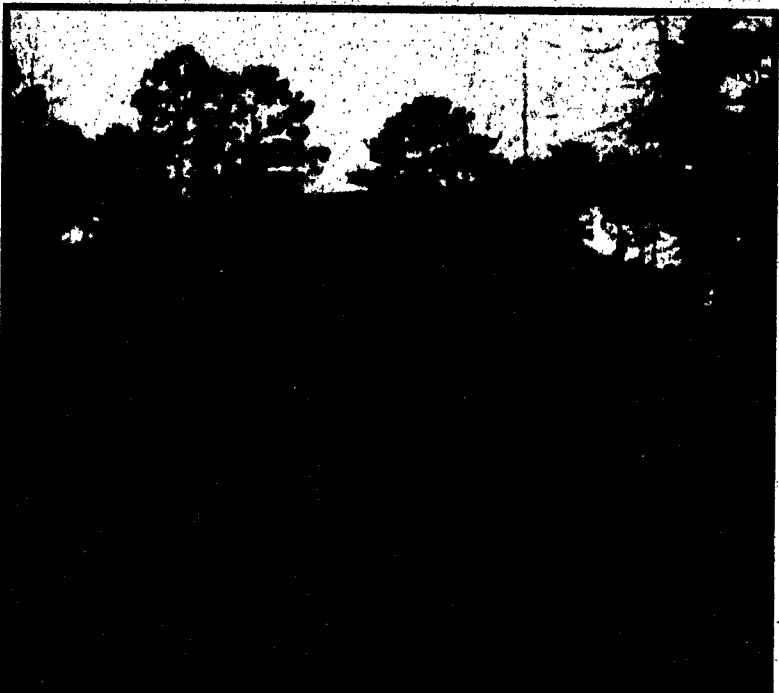
Home of Mr. and Mrs. Len Krick



Gardens of Jim and Diana Israel



Home of Bob and Karly Legere



Home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Orr Jr.



Home of Mr. and Mrs. John Pearson

YOUTH

2B-THE SEA COAST ECHO-SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 1998

WHAT'S FOR

MENUS
MARCH 24-27
Milk served daily
for breakfast
and lunch

Bay St. Louis- Waveland School District

BREAKFAST

Monday — No School.
Tuesday — Juice, Cereal and Toast or Scrambled Eggs, Hashbrowns.
Wednesday — Juice, Cereal and Toast or Cheesy Grits, Sausage.
Thursday — Juice, Cereal and Toast or Breakfast Pizza.
Friday — Juice, Cereal and Toast or Sausage Biscuit.

LUNCH

Monday — No School.
Tuesday — Pepperoni and Cheese Pizza, Burrito with Chili and Cheese, Salad with French Dressing, Buttered Peas, Butter Cake with Vanilla Icing.
Wednesday — Lasagna or Chicken Fillet on Bun with Trimmings, Butter Beans, French Fries, Chocolate Pudding, Sliced Bread.
Thursday — Fried Chicken or Hot Dog with Chili, Fice and Gravy, Glazed Sweet Potatoes, Fruit Cup, Hot Roll.
Friday — Shrimp Gumbo or Ham and Cheese on Bun with Trimmings, Steamed Rice, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Saltine Crackers, Peach Cobbler.

Trumpet ensemble workshop at USM

Trumpet students in grades 9-12 can rehearse and perform music from the 15th through 20th centuries during a March 28-29 All-South Honor Trumpet Ensemble workshop at USM.

Selected by taped audition, participants will address basic fundamentals, equipment, solo literature, musicianship and careers in music. They also will perform with USM's Trumpet Ensemble during a 2 p.m. concert in Bennett Auditorium March 29.

Leading the sessions will be Allan Cox, USM professor of trumpet, who will be a workshop director, soloist, clinician and ensemble director; Armando Ghitalla, guest clinician; and James Jenkins, USM trumpet teaching assistant, master's degree candidate, soloist, ensemble coach and workshop assistant.

In addition to the concert, workshop participants will hear anther concert by USM trumpet students at 2 p.m. March 28 and a trumpet recital by Cox and Jenkins at 7 p.m., both in USM's Marsh Hall.

Cost of the workshop is \$75, although non-participating high school and college students may audit all sessions for \$30. The daily audit fee is \$15.

For information or to arrange to submit an audition tape, call 266-4186.

USM summer camp

Individuals can get information, meet directors and register for summer camps during the University of Southern Mississippi Registration Celebration April 4.

The 10 a.m.-2 p.m. event is planned in the center court of Hattiesburg's Turtle Creek Mall on US-98 West. Door prizes will be awarded.

For information, call USM Continuing Education at (601) 266-4186.

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Chef Salad, Bread,
Dessert and Milk
Condiments:
Mustard/Mayo/Ketchup
Sweet and Sour Sauce/Salsa
BBQ Sauce, Hot Sauce or
Taco Sauce

LUNCH
Monday — No School.
Tuesday — Shaved Ham Pobo or Hamburger with Trimmings or Chicken and Dumplings, French Fries, California Vegetables, Chilled Pears or Fruit Juice, Honey Wheat Roll or Crackers.
Wednesday — Beef/Tomato Pie or Turkey Sub with Trimmings or Red Beans and Rice, Corn on the Cob or Tossed Salad with Dressing, Fruit or Fruit Juice, Cornbread or Crackers, Jello with Whipped Topping.
Thursday — Country Fried Steak or Hot Dog with Chili or Chili and Grilled Cheese Combo, Seasoned Potato Cuts, Glazed Carrots, Fruit or Pineapple Tidbits, Yeast Rolls or Crackers.
Friday — Fried Catfish or Pizza with Toppings or Sloppy Joe, French Fries, Baked Beans, Tropical Fruit Mix or Fruit Juice, Yeast Rolls or Crackers, Cake.

**Hancock
North Central
Gulfview and
Charles B. Murphy**

Elementary Schools

Served daily:
Chef Salad, Bread,
Dessert and Milk
Condiments:
Mustard/Mayo/Ketchup
Sweet and Sour Sauce/Salsa
BBQ Sauce, Hot Sauce or
Taco Sauce

BREAKFAST
Monday — No School.
Tuesday — Pizza, Juice.
Wednesday — Egg & Biscuit, Juice.
Thursday — Muffins, Juice.
Friday — Grilled Cheese Sandwich, Pineapple Chunks.

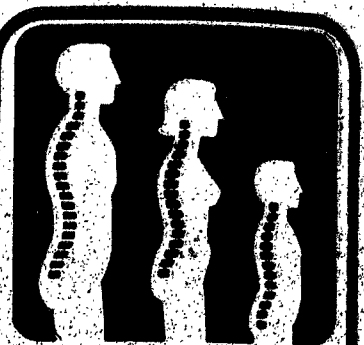
LUNCH
Monday — No School.
Tuesday — Hamburger with Trimmings or Chicken and Dumplings, French Fries, California Vegetables, Chilled Pears or Fruit Juice, Honey Wheat Roll or Crackers.
Wednesday — Turkey Sub with Trimmings or Red Beans and Rice, Corn on the Cob or Tossed Salad with Dressing, Fruit or Fruit Juice, Cornbread or Crackers, Jello with Whipped Topping.

Thursday — Hot Dog with Chili or Chili and Grilled Cheese Combo, Seasoned Potato Cuts, Glazed Carrots, Fruit or Pineapple Tidbits, Yeast Rolls or Crackers.
Friday — Fried Catfish or Pizza with Toppings, French Fries, Baked Beans, Tropical Fruit Mix or Fruit Juice, Yeast Rolls or Crackers, Cake.



Spring style show.

St. Stanislaus Key Club and The Princess Shoppe sponsor the ninth annual Spring Style Show Tuesday, March 24, 7 p.m. in the St. Stanislaus Mall. Theme will be "Fashion Notes." Admission is \$3. Proceeds benefit the Key Club and will be divided between Iodine Deficiency Disorder Unit of St. Jude Hospital and the SSC Lenten Giving Fund. Tickets may be purchased from SSC Key Club members, Princess Dress Shoppe Teen Board members or by calling Hollie McCollister at 467-9057. The models dressed in formal wear from the Princess Shoppe and their escorts are, from left, Lindsey Rogers of Our Lady Academy, Rafael Llanos of St. Stanislaus, Christi Klein of Our Lady Academy, and Jace Bourgeois of St. Stanislaus.



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Changing student experiences Bay High Air Force JROTC

By C/Capt. Ewa Kaniewska
My name is Ewa (pronounced Ewa by Americans) Kaniewska, and I am an exchange student from Germany. I am staying in Bay St. Louis for a year and attending Bay High School as a senior.

"In Germany, there is no JROTC in our high schools, so when I first came here, I didn't even know what it was."

"My host parents, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Schloegel, do a lot of volunteer work with the JROTC of Bay High School, so it was through them that I was introduced to JROTC and the Major and Sarge, who told me further details about the JROTC program."

"My interest in JROTC grew and I joined up. In this program I made a lot of friends. I am on the Drill Team and the Saber Team. I also have joined the JROTC Rocket Club, to which I was elected secretary, and the Physical Fitness team. It has been a lot of fun."

"With the JROTC I do a lot of volunteer work to include

changing flags along the highway and participation in anti-drug visits to the elementary and middle schools. I even worked at the concession stand during football games."

"I sign up for every kind of volunteer work that JROTC offers. I have never done so much of this type activity in my whole life, but I am enjoying it a lot."

"Two weeks ago, the JROTC hosted a military ball. Cadet Elvia Ta and I were elected king and queen of the ball. That made me really proud and happy that my fellow cadets felt that way about me. I will never forget that night."

"Joining the JROTC was one of my best decisions made since coming to the United States. It is such a great experience, and I have learned so much about the U.S. and the American military through it."

"I have also learned a lot about discipline and how to be a leader. The Major and Sarge are really good teachers, and I am really, really enjoying being part of the Bay High Air Force JROTC."

Bay High JRTC cadets attend National Drill Championships

By C/Capt. Stephen Thoms
Bay High Air Force Junior ROTC cadets in February attended the 1998 American Legion Coca Cola National Drill Championships in Montgomery, Ala. The Montgomery Coliseum was the location for the competition.

Some 6,000 cadets from 120

schools participated.

Bay High's male and female drill teams competed throughout the day, and while efforts didn't result in trophies, the teams gave it their best, according to C/Capt. Stephen Thoms.

"The trip is seen by all as a learning experience and was certainly an occasion to remember," he said.

School children plan visit to MSU's farm

Thousands of children who may not have the opportunity to see where agricultural products originate will be able to when Mississippi State University hosts the 15th annual "MSU School Days on the Farm."

The program for prekindergarten through fourth grade children is April 14-16 at the Animal Research Center (South Farm) just south of MSU's main campus. Times are 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. on the 14th and 15th and 8:30-1 p.m. on the 16th. The program has been held over a two-day period in past years.

"We've extended it to three days to spread the crowds out a bit and to give the children the ability to see the exhibits closer," said coordinator Byron Williams.

Besides the traditional diverse exhibits including beef and dairy cattle, horses, sheep, poultry, aquaculture species insects, row crops, fruits and vegetables, Williams said new exhibits will include ones focusing on farm safety and environmental concerns.

The event is a cooperative effort of MSU; the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine; the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station; the Col-

lege of Agriculture and Life Sciences; and other state agricultural organizations.

For information, contact Williams, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Office of the Dean, Box 9760, Mississippi State, MS 39762, (601) 325-2110.

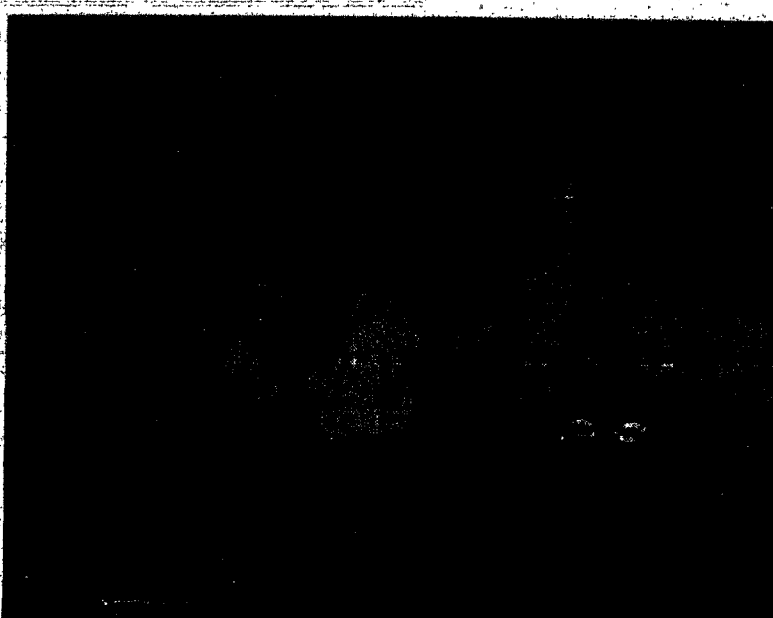
UM chorale spring concert

The public is invited to attend the University of Mobile chorale spring concert: Thursday, April 2 at 7:30 p.m. at Spring Hill Baptist Church.

The free concert will feature the University of Mobile chorale, orchestra and soloists. The program will consist of a variety of music, including spirituals, anthems and songs from the shaped-note tradition.

The centerpiece of the program will be Vivaldi's "Gloria," which is traditionally sung at Christmas time and will include soloists Pam Beasley and Sara Wright.

For information, call the UM Music Department at (334) 675-5990, ext. 284.



Lenten season

At a recent prayer service held at Our Lady of the Gulf Church, the St. Stanislaus student body celebrated the beginning of Lent. Under the musical leadership of Doug Gleber, director of youth ministry at OLG, the St. Stanislaus choir performed a number of hymns to reflect on the Lenten season, a Christian observation of penitence leading into Easter.

Participants sought for Leadership Studies

Applications are now being accepted by the University of Southern Mississippi for a summer Leadership Studies program for children in grades 6-11.

Applications for the June 14-19 residential program must be turned in by March 31. Tuition covers room, board, recreational activities and limited accident insurance.

Applicants must have a desire to enhance their leadership skills and abilities, plus a recommendation from officials at the school they attend.

First-time participants take Leadership I, which covers fundamental leadership skills — including written and oral communication, group dynamics, problem-solving, planning, personal skills and decision-making.

Leadership II, offered to second-year students, builds on

principles taught in the first course.

Third-year students take Leadership III. All courses focus on legal aspects of leadership, responsibilities of various positions of leadership, personal power and leadership for the future.

Avenues for becoming leaders in school, community, church or synagogue are discussed to heighten awareness and development of leadership potential.

Participants also have an opportunity for informal interaction with adult leaders.

For applications or information, contact the Leadership Studies Program, University of Southern Mississippi, Box 8207, Hattiesburg, MS 39406-8207 or call (601) 266-5236.

American Legion Post 139 scholarships available

Clement R. Bontemps Post 139 of the American Legion is an old established organization in the community. They have long been involved in community, youth and education projects in Bay St. Louis and all of Hancock County.

The education chairman this year is John Wilkerson, and he has the scholarship applications. Once again Post 139 will be offering four scholarships to Pearl River Community College and the Dick Thomas Scholarship to the University of Southern Mississippi.

Seniors in high school who will be graduating in June may apply for one of these scholarships by contacting John Wilkerson, P.O. Box 68, Bay St. Louis, MS 39520 or call (228) 467-6098.

The colleges and the scholarship committee will make the selections, and the scholarships will be awarded at the school's

Awards Day by a representative of Clement R. Bontemps Post 139.

The American Legion is a patriotic veterans organization dedicated to assistance to the veterans and their families and dedication to the community, state and nation.

MILLER MEN

PVT FLOWERS

Army National Guard Pvt. David R. Flowers was graduated from One Station Unit Training (OSUT) at Fort McClellan, Anniston, Ala., which included basic military training and advanced individual training (AIT).

Flowers is the son of Richard R. and Donna E. Flowers of Bay St. Louis.

He is a 1997 graduate of Bay High School.

Women 1998

Events start 8am.
Thursday, April 2, 1998
Mississippi Coast College
& Convention Center

Come for the evening or for both. Enjoy presentations of special interest to women of all ages!

Exciting Speakers:
Day Keynote: **Robin Roberts**
ESPN's sports anchor/reporter, women's basketball commentator
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Wife of Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf

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Declutter Yourself
Makeover: Be All You Can Be
Stress Wellness or Stress Illness: The Choice Is Yours
Cosmetic Surgery: Is It for You?
Communication Skills: Stop, Look and Listen
Discussing Perimenopause: Out of the Closet
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Plus lunch, evening hors d'oeuvres and a variety of screenings and books.

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Forest Service offers grants

The USDA Forest Service, National Forests in Mississippi, is currently offering grants of \$2,000 or more to rural communities within the state under its Rural Community Assistance Program.

On an annual basis, the Forest Service offers and awards small grants to rural communities of 10,000 persons or less for economic development projects. The program is funded by the Forest Service State and Private Forestry Programs, Washington, D.C.

The National Forests in Mississippi receive more than \$20,000 this year to award in grants to eligible rural communities within the state (certain eligibility requirements apply).

Purpose of the Rural Community Assistance Program is to provide technical and financial assistance to resource-dependent rural communities in the rural South that are challenged with persistent hardships.

The program's goals are to strengthen rural communities, enhance the quality of life, protect the environment, promote economic diversification and emphasize long-term solutions.

In the past, communities have received funding for projects such as leadership seminars, youth seminars, youth centers, recycling, and Eco-tourism; however, funding is not limited to these types of projects.

For information about eligibility requirements, communities interested in applying for these grants should contact

Marcia Sneed, National Forests in Mississippi State and Private Forestry Program Coordinator, 100 W. Capitol St., Suite 1141, Jackson, MS 39269 or call Sneed at 601-965-4391 ext. 171. The deadline date for submission of grant proposals is April 15.

Forestry Incentives Program

There will be a sign-up opportunity for private, non-industrial forest landowners in Mississippi for the USDA Forestry Incentives Program (FIP) March 23-27.

To be eligible for cost-share assistance under FIP, a landowner must own no more than 1,000 acres of eligible land and have land suitable for producing marketable timber crops.

The minimum acceptable acreage for FIP is 10 acres and an annual cost-share payment of \$5,000 per person.

The Forestry Incentives Program is designed to share tree-planting and forest-management expenses with eligible, private landowners to prevent future shortages of sawtimber, plywood logs and quality hardwood logs.

Practices available under FIP are tree planting, stand improvement of forest trees, and site preparation.

For information on program rules and guidelines for FIP, contact your local USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service or Soil and Water Conservation District office:

Harrison County, 831-2640 Gulfport
Hancock County, 255-3225 Kiln
Jackson County, 826-2482 Vancleave

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM

The first application period for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, commonly known as EQIP, takes place presently through April 3.

EQIP is a voluntary natural resource conservation program, with cost-sharing for agricultural producers. But, producers must file by April 3 to be considered in the first ranking period.

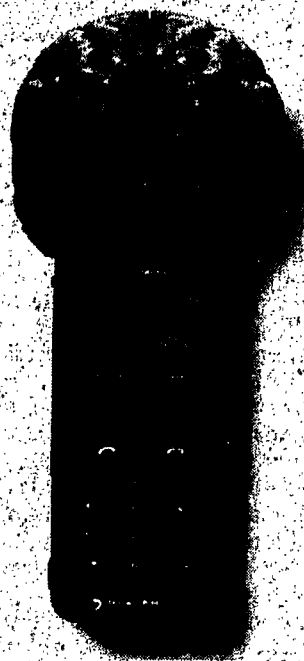
EQIP is administered by the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service.

For information on program rules and guidelines, call in Harrison County, 831-2640; Hancock County, 255-3225; or Jackson County, 826-2482.

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CLUBS, ASSOCIATIONS

American Legion Auxiliary 139

The membership meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary Clement R. Bontemps Unit 139 was held March 12.

A hand-made magnolia quilt, intended as a raffle item for the president's special project during the Harvest Ball/Auction was not needed for this event. Members decided to continue the raffle and use the proceeds for 1998 Girls State delegates from Hancock County. The drawing for the quilt will be held at the unit's June 12 meeting.

Unit members congratulated Hancock County's newly appointed Civil Defense director, Lynette Carbon, who is a long-time member of Unit 139.

President, Jaquette Linder read a thank-you note from the VA Nursing Home in Collins thanking Roslyn Weathers for the lap robes she had made for the nursing home residents.

She also informed the members that the unit received a certificate of recognition from Project Safe for their donation towards playground equipment.

The unit voted to sponsor Junior Auxiliary member Amanda Bufkin as a contestant in the Miss Mississippi Preteen contest to be held in Jackson in late July.

The annual Children's Easter Party and Egg Hunt, sponsored by Post and Unit 139 and the City of Bay St. Louis, will be held March 28 on the grounds of the Bay St. Louis Depot at 1 p.m.

Unit members are asked to arrive at the Depot grounds at 9 a.m. March 28 to assist with preparations. Members are also asked to attend a special meeting at the Depot Monday, March 23 at 6 p.m. to bag candy.

Any donations should be brought to this meeting. This year there will be no rain-out date scheduled, however if the party is rained out, parents may bring the children to the Depot March 28 from 1-3 p.m. to have their pictures taken with the Easter Bunny and receive candy and eggs.

There will also be a drawing in each age group for prizes. Mickey and Minnie Mouse will also be on hand to entertain the children.

Unit 139 voted to increase yearly membership dues to \$12 for 1999. The unit has resisted increasing membership dues for the past several years, although there have been several increases in national membership fees and assessments.

A nominating committee was elected by the membership. Serving will be chairman Rhonda A. Grant, Retta Cardin and Hazel Wohlschlegel.

The committee will present a slate of candidates at the April 9 membership meeting.

At the May 14 membership meeting, nominations will be accepted from the floor, and the election of officers will be held at the June 11 meeting.

The Ninth District Conference will be held May 9 at Post 139, Green Meadow Road in Bay St. Louis, Unit and Post 139.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly

TOPS WAVELAND 233

TOPS MS 233 Waveland met Tuesday, March 10 at the Waveland Public Library. Elaine was the week's best loser with 5.25 pounds. Kathy and Ruth were the week's best KOPS losers. Club members welcomed new member Ann.

A charm was presented to Elaine and Karen J. for losing 30 pounds. The Incentive Award was won by Karen N. There were 21 members present. Contest winners were Karen J., Elaine and Kathy. A new contest will start next week. Charlotte presented the program.

TOPS met again March 17 with 25 members present. Ann was the week's best loser with 7.25 pounds. Nicole was the best youth loser with 1 pound. Kathy was the best KOPS loser. The program was presented by Karen N. Members are asked to bring quarters and prizes for the bingo next Tuesday.

TOPS MS 233 meets every Tuesday at the Waveland Public Library. Weigh-ins are from 5-5:45 p.m. with the meeting following.

Anyone interested in losing weight the sensible way and maintaining that weight loss is welcome to visit the TOPS chapter. Interested persons are invited to call Charlotte at 467-5790.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly

KILN

TOPS MS 231 Kiln met Monday, March 6 at the District 4 Community Center. Janet P. was the week's best loser with 6 pounds.

Elections were held for new officers. Janet P. was elected leader; Pat was elected co-leader; Janet P. was elected secretary; and Vicki was re-elected treasurer.

Weight recorder is Linda, and assistant weight recorder is Helen.

TOPS MS 231 meets every Monday at the District 4 Community Center, Hwy. 43, Kiln. Weigh-ins are 4:45-5:15 p.m. with the meeting following. The chapter encourages anyone desiring to lose and maintain weight to visit and join their TOPS chapter. For information, call Helen at 255-7658.

Hancock Women's Club

Members of Hancock Women's Club met March 12 at the Holiday Inn.

Guests introduced were Lorraine Heffron, Frances Wolfe, Dot Hayman and Ritara Rapara.

A \$200 donation was made to the Mary Michael Collins Fund at Hancock Bank.

Birthday corsages were presented to Madonna Boos, Beverly Cogan, Margaret Heitzmann, Marian Rapp, Dee Wendling and Muriel Zinc.

Billie Jean was the recipient of the complimentary lunch.

Installation of new officers was made by Marjorie Thompson. They are Billie Jean Niver, president; Lois Cripple, vice president; Mary Gilmore, secretary; and Azelia Killeen, treasurer.

Committee chairman are Jean Long, telephone; Marjorie Thompson, ways and means; Mamie O'Quinn, hospitality; Madonna Boos, sunshine; and Shirley Clemons, publicity.

Game Day will be Wednesday, March 25 at the Depot.

American Legion Junior Auxiliary 139

The American Legion Junior Auxiliary had its monthly meeting March 17.

Carolyn Bermond talked to the girls about cancer and the importance of people helping people. The group also planned the April calendar.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 21 at 7 p.m. All members are encouraged to attend.

Those who missed the meeting and would like a calendar of April's activities, contact Karen at 466-2582.

American Legion Auxiliary 139

Janell Necaise, Americanism chairman, informed members that she has received more than 100 entries in the Americanism Essay Contest, including several pre-kindergarten and kindergarten entries in the poster contest. Winners will be announced at a later date.

Education chairman Jane Graves received three scholarship applications. They have been sent to the judging committee. The winners will be announced at the April meeting.

Elaine Cowie, VA&R committee member, announced that the ice cream and cake parties at the VA Hospital in Gulfport will resume April 1 and will continue on the first Wednesday of each month at 3 p.m. All unit members who would like to help with these events may contact Cowie at 255-9195 or Phyllis Moran at 466-0480.

The next meetings of Unit 139 will be an executive meeting Thursday, Apr. 2 at the Post Clubhouse at 6:30 p.m. and a general membership meeting Thursday, April 9, also at the Post Clubhouse at 7 p.m.

Gulf Coast Opera Salon

Members of the Gulf Coast Opera Salon will meet at 10 a.m. March 16 at the Biloxi Yacht Club.

The Annapolis Elementary School Choir will perform. Lunch will be served followed by a business meeting.

Gulfport Little Theatre presents 'Cotton Patch Gospel'

Gulfport Little Theatre presents "Cotton Patch Gospel," book by Tom Key and Russell Treyz, music and lyrics by Harry Chapin, March 27, 28, April 3, 4 at 8 p.m. and March 29 at 2 p.m. at the Deborah Place Playhouse, (intersection 13th Ave. and Deobrah Place just behind Lyle's Carpet Mart on Pass Road).

Tickets are \$10 adults, \$8 seniors and \$7 students.

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BIRTHS

RODRICK ANDREA MURPHY JR.

Chelsea Bradley and Rockrick Andrea Murphy of Bay St. Louis, announce the birth of a son, Rodrick Andrea Jr., March 10, 1998 at 5:11 p.m. at Hancock Medical Center in Bay St. Louis. He weighed 7 pounds, 1 ounce.

Maternal grandparents are Sandra L. Allen and Herman Myles Jr. of Slidell.

Paternal grandparents are Michelle C. Nimitz of New Orleans and the late Willard D. Murphy Jr.

Great-grandparents include Ollie Buttler of Waveland and Mr. and Mrs. Roselle Hayes of Pensacola, Fla. Rodrick is welcomed by his sister, Alisia.

KADYN CHRISTOPHER BARBER

Teri M. Garriga and Christopher Barber of Pass Christian, announce the birth of a son, Kady Christopher, March 10, 1998 at 8:32 a.m. at Hancock Medical Center in Bay St. Louis. He weighed 6 pounds, 8 ounces.

Maternal grandparents are Jacquie Garriga of Anemia, N.Y. and Elizabeth Ridnour of Laramie, Wyo.

Paternal grandparents are Kenneth J. Garriga of Pass Christian and Leland Ridnour of Fort Collins, Colo.

EVAN ALEX GOODSON

Alex Fred Goodson and Jackie Maria Goodson of Pearl River La., announce the birth of a son, Alex Fred, March 6, 1998 at North Shore Regional Medical Center in Slidell.

DALTON CONNER BERMOND

Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Leo Bermond Sr. of Bay St. Louis, announce the birth of a son, Dalton Conner, March 13, 1998 at North Shore Regional Medical Center in Slidell.

Mrs. Bermond is the former Annette Elizabeth Erskine.

STANTON MYLES LADNER

Mr. and Mrs. Sherwin Denford Ladner of Perkinston, announce the birth of a son, Stanton Myles, March 11, 1998 at North Shore Regional Medical Center in Slidell.

Mrs. Ladner is the former Ceyrelia Heitzmann.

ASHLYN NICOLE BENNETT

Charles Joseph Bennett Jr. and Paula Dianne Bennett of Pearlinton, announce the birth of a daughter, Ashlyn Nicole, March 9, 1998 at North Shore Regional Medical Center in Slidell.

Mississippi Concert Hall features Elizabeth Moak

On PRM's next Mississippi concert Hall, Elizabeth Moak performs alone and as soloist with the Mississippi Symphony in a program which can be heard Sunday, March 22, 12:06 p.m.

Moak plays the original arrangement of Dances of Marozek by Zoltan Kodaly and then

joins with the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra for Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1, a performance recorded this past October.

Mississippi Concert Hall features performances by Mississippi musicians. The program is produced by Tim Riley and airs twice weekly on Public Radio in Mississippi.



Special Rotary award

Ethel LeBreton, secretary of the Diamondhead Rotary Club, recently was presented a Rotary Circle Pin by Clifford L. Dochterman, Rotary Foundation trustee. Congratulating LeBreton is Diamondhead Rotary's past president Patrick Wild. (Echo staff photo by Ellis C. Cuevas)

Sleeping disorders topic of seminar

Northshore Regional Medical Center in Slidell will host a seminar with Dr. Anwant Chawla, MD, a board certified sleep disorders specialist. He will be conducting a seminar on "Sleeping Disorders: How to Diagnose and Manage Sleep Apnea and other Related Problems" at North Shore Regional Medical Center's main dining room, 100 Medical Center Drive Thursday, April 2, 7-8:30 p.m.

There will be a question-and-answer session at the end of the seminar. Adults with sleeping problems or those concerned with the sleeping problem of someone else are encouraged to attend.

Some 84 disorders of sleeping and waking harm personal health and the quality of life and endanger public safety by contributing to traffic and industrial accidents.

These disorders include problems falling or staying asleep, difficulties staying awake or adhering to a consistent sleep/wake schedule, sleepwalking, bed-wetting, nightmares and other problems that disrupt sleep. Some sleep disorders may even be potentially fatal.

Enrollment is limited. Contact 1-800-723-8723 to register.

American Legion Auxiliary Children's Easter party

The American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 139 in Bay St. Louis will have its fourth annual Children's Easter Party at the Depot Saturday, March 28.

In the event of a rain-out, the children will still receive their Easter goodies, and each age group will draw for the prizes.

Due to the large crowd, the party is on the grounds of the city's newly renovated Depot, Blaize Avenue and Bookter Street, Bay St. Louis.

Although most of the expense of this party and the work is donated by American Legion Auxiliary Unit 139 members, one of the Easter party committee members is asking for assistance — cash donations or donations of raw eggs or boiled eggs, boiled dyed eggs, candy, prizes, etc. Anything will be greatly appreciated.

The party has turned into one of Bay St. Louis' largest community events. Your participation has been of great value in making this event a huge success and is looked forward to by hundreds of children each year.

Your generous contributions, along with a request for patronage of your business, will be advertised through a flier given out to the parents. You would truly be amazed how much the adults appreciate the fact that local businesses go that extra step to give something back to the community.

City of Bay St. Louis will again provide the services of the city photographer to take pictures of the children with the Easter Bunny free of charge, provide the grounds, maintenance and necessary safety precautions.

PRCC director honored

Ann Morris, Pearl River Community College's director of institutional effectiveness, has been selected to receive the Phi Theta Kappa International Society's Board of Directors Alumni Achievement Award.

Morris will be honored Saturday, April 4 during PTK's 80th International Convention in Nashville, Tenn. She will provide the keynote address during an alumni recognition banquet at 5:30 p.m. and will receive the prestigious award during the Hallmarks Award Gala set for 8 p.m.

Morris was inducted into the college's Iota Mu Chapter of PTK while a student at PRCC. At present, she serves as co-advisor of the chapter and advisor of the college's PTK alumni association. She is a founding member of the society's Alumni Advisory Council and will complete her second three-year term as its chair.

"It is hard to think of an alumnus more deserving of this prestigious recognition," said Rod A. Risley, executive direc-

tor of Phi Theta Kappa, an honor society for two-year colleges headquartered in Jackson. "Ann Morris has provided invaluable leadership and service to Phi Theta Kappa on the local, state and international levels."

Risley says Morris "has brought a wealth of experience and a true love of the organization as an alumna, as an advisor, and as an alumni advisor working to support the students of our two-year colleges."

Dr. Shirley Gordon, chairman of the board of directors, said Morris' "service has been exemplary and unflagging. She is a true role model for our members and other alumni who embrace the society's mission of excellence."

Phi Theta Kappa was established in 1918 and recognizes academic achievement of two-year college students. It also provides opportunities for individual growth and development through leadership, honors and service programming.

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The "WORD" for the Week

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The mystical, supernatural and paranormal attract us. The X-Files remain one of the most popular shows on television among young adults. A very interesting concept in the Bible declares, "You may become partakers of the divine nature" (2 Peter 1:4).

Does this mean we mystically open ourselves to the divine being permeating the universe? Does this mean, when we do so, we have special union with divinity? Does this mean we can have special

WEDDING

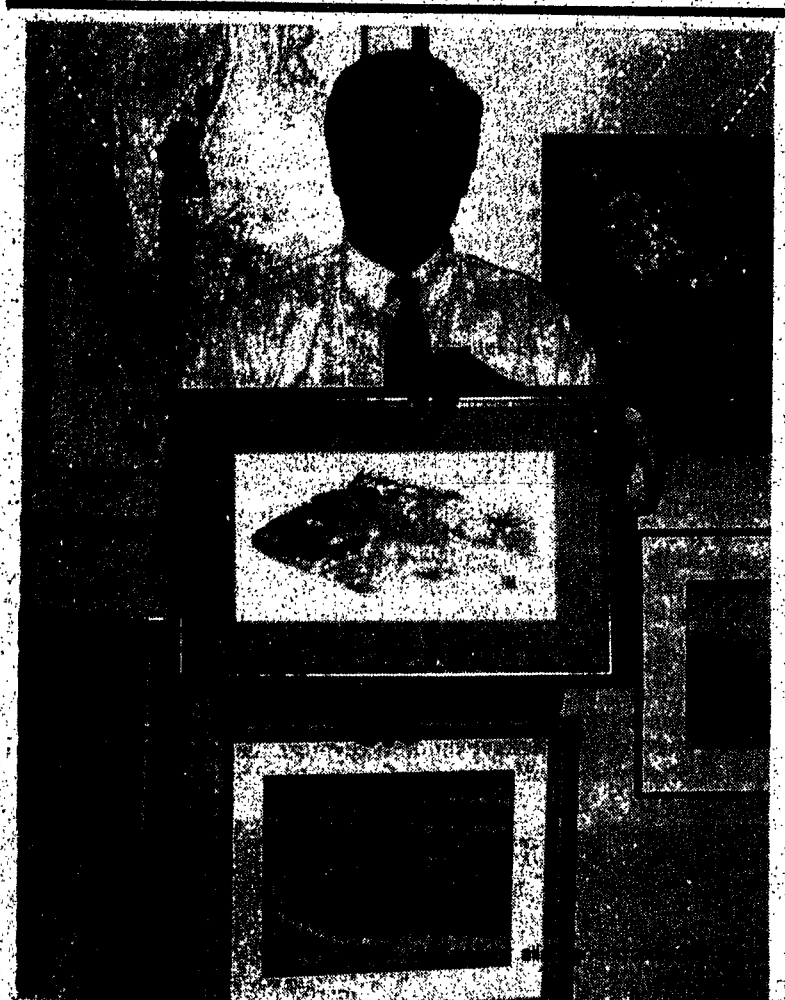
Latham-Green

Carol T. Green and Michael J. Green, both of Bay St. Louis, announce the marriage and forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Michelle Lynn, to Joseph Edmond Latham, son of Terry and Ann Latham of Diamondhead.

The bride-elect is a 1994 graduate of Bay High School and is employed with McRae in Biloxi.

The prospective groom is a 1988 Bay High graduate and is employed with Hurricane Hunters, Keesler Air Force Base.

The marriage ceremony will be Saturday, May 9, 1998 at 4 p.m. in Trinity Episcopal Church in Pass Christian. A reception will follow.



Art for children

Mike Haas Jr. displays some of the art the Hancock County Exchange Club is raffling to benefit the Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse. The drawing will be held Thursday, March 26. Art for the event has been donated by Alice Moseley, Kay Yanez, Ruth Roberts, Connie Boussom, Nadine Stamm, Jeanne Warner, Andrea Loicano, Kathie Calhoun, Sony Yeager and Bob Hubbard. Tickets are \$5 each with 10 chances to win. To purchase tickets, contact Amy Corr at 466-5957 or any Exchange Club member. (Sea Coast Echo photo by Randy Ponder)

Church women sponsor 'Mutt America' dog show

The United Methodist Women of Clermont Harbor are sponsoring a "Mutt America" Pageant dog show. Pedigrees will be considered. Children of all ages may bring their mutts. This is a mutt's chance to shine for a day. Refreshments will be available.

The event will be Saturday, March 28 at the Diamondhead Methodist Church.

Registration is \$5 and starts at 11 a.m., judging starts at 12:15 p.m. Ribbons, prizes and a trophy for Best All Around Mutt will be awarded.

For information, call Pat Cullifer, 255-2039, or Lori Koller at 255-5906.

The United Methodist Women is an international organization whose purpose, in part, is to support missionaries, women and children.

Speakers available

Dr. Jack White, chairman of the Mississippi Humanities Council, recently announced the release of the Mississippi Humanities Council Speakers Bureau for 1998-99.

"Since its beginnings in 1990, the MHC Speakers Bureau has become one of the council's most popular programs," said Dr. White. "Its members reach rural areas of the state where there is limited access to high quality cultural programs."

Of interest in the new Speakers Bureau is a special section of presenters who speak on topics related to the Splendors of Versailles exhibit to open this spring in Jackson.

A total of 68 speakers also cover a wide variety of topics and issues of interest to general audiences.

A few of the more popular topics include women's studies, Mississippi history, Southern culture and ethnic heritage.

The application process is very simple. Organizations interested in applying for a speaker should contact the Mississippi Humanities Council at (601) 982-6752 to request the booklet.

The MHC is funded by Congress through the National Endowment for the Humanities and through private donations. Half of the MHC volunteer board members are academic professionals and half public.

Every effort is made to maintain balance by race, gender and geographic distribution to represent all citizens of the state. The council invited nominations from those interested in serving as volunteers.

Hancock County Art Association Show and Sale

The Hancock County Art Association met at the Senior Citizens Center and finalized plans for coming activities.

On Apr. 2 the association will have an Art Show and Sale at the Old Depot in Bay St. Louis, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

The Spring Pilgrimage in Bay St. Louis will be on the same day. Everyone is invited to view the work of local artists.

The artists will be on hand to visit or to help choose the right painting.

psychic powers derived from the divine? I don't think this is what the Bible means at all.

Let's look at it this way. The Bible says, "God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God and God abides in him" (1 John 4:16). The suggested test is love. We need to love God and love our neighbors. What is the love of God? "This is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome."

Two points. First, the love of God involves honoring our parents, honoring life, monitoring marriage, honoring personal property, and always telling the truth. Love has a mystical side. Love also has an ethical dimension.

Second, God's commandments are not burdensome. They reflect God's character. They display God's nature. If we are full of His love, we follow these commandments. This is how we participate in God's nature.

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QWGFH YDE: FRUVY

This week's clue: 1 equals Y

Have fun with cryptography and increase your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Romans 3:22. Copyright 1998 Charles Mads. 08-12

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Spring Fever

Spring fever can be described as a lazy, laid-back, "want to do nothing" feeling that everyone gets now and then. Sometimes it is a condition that seems to happen when it is time to begin our Spring chores; however, it may affect us any time of the year. Mild spring fever can actually be enjoyable and usually persists for only one or two days; however, we must be careful that this lazy feeling does not hang around too long. A person can occasionally become lazy not only in their daily chores, but also in their spiritual life. Sometimes it is so easy to neglect to do some of the things that we know we should do. God wants all of us who are able, to be active and to be the best that we can be. The Bible tells us not to be lazy and to serve the Lord with a heart full of devotion.

We do not want you to become lazy, but to be like those who believe and are patient, and so receive what God has promised.
Good News Bible Hebrews 6:12

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Taylor sponsors art contest

Young artists from all over South Mississippi display their talents in the 5th Congressional District Art Competition, "An Artistic Discovery," announced U.S. Rep. Gene Taylor, the competition's sponsor.

The event is set for Friday, April 3, 3-4:30 p.m. at the Perkinson campus of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. The public is invited.

This is the 17th year "An Artistic Discovery," the official congressional art competition, has been held in congressional districts throughout the U.S. This is the eighth year Congressman Taylor has sponsored the event in South Mississippi.

New this year to the competition is a \$10,000 scholarship for the Best of Show winner to attend the Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, Ga. Taylor will also award a scholarship to be used at one of South Mississippi's junior colleges.

Taylor said his assistant, Mrs. Jerry Martin, has been in contact with high school principals and art teachers throughout South Mississippi about the contest. Students should contact their school art teacher for details. Deadline for entries is Friday, March 27.

Taylor said last year more than 200 students entered their paintings, drawings, collages and printing work. Last year's Best of Show winner was Roudie Jones of Richton.

The Best in Show winner will receive the honor of hanging the art in the heavily traveled Cannon corridor of the U.S. Capitol for a year. The underground passageway links U.S. House Office Buildings with the Capitol. Category winners will exhibit their art in Taylor's local offices.

Watch Broken?
BRING IT TO US!
Bayou Jewelers & Watch Repair
634 Hwy. 90 • Waveland
466-0425



Boy Scout Sunday

Main Street United Methodist Church in Bay St. Louis celebrated the annual Boy Scout Sunday Feb. 8 at the 11 a.m. worship service. All active and former Boy Scouts were invited to wear their uniforms and attend, along with their families. Pictured is Trey Swanson of Diamondhead Cub Scout Pack 20 performing one of his acolyte duties.

Public Notice

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HANCOCK COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
TOWNLEY DE LA VERGNE ST. PAUL, PLAINTIFF
VERSUS
BOBBY JOSEPH BRIANT, DEFENDANT(S)
CAUSE NO. 98-0118
(Service by Publication: Residence Unknown)
TO: Bobby Joseph Briant, whose residence is unknown, but whose last known address was 8500 Jackson Square, Apartment 13A, Shreveport, Louisiana 71115. You have been made defendant in the lawsuit filed in this Court by Judge C. Briant, Plaintiff.

The complaint filed against you has initiated a civil action alleging habitual neglect and inhuman treatment. You are required to mail or hand deliver a copy of a written answer either admitting or denying each allegation in the Complaint to Lee N. Perry, Attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is 5408 14th Street, Post Office Box 398, 2409 14th Street, Gulfport, Mississippi 39502.

YOUR ANSWER MUST BE MAILED OR DELIVERED NOT LATER THAN THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE 22 DAY OF MARCH, 1998, WHICH IS THE DATE OF THE FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS SUMMONS. IF YOUR ANSWER IS NOT SO MAILED OR DELIVERED, A JUDGEMENT BY DEFAULT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU FOR THE MONEY OR OTHER RELIEF DEMAND IN THE COMPLAINT.

You must also file the original of your answer with the Clerk of this Court within a reasonable time after the date of the first publication of this summons. If you fail to do so, a judgment by default may be entered against you for the money or other relief demanded in the complaint.

ISSUED this 10th day of March, 1998
HANCOCK COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK
By: Tim Keller, Clerk
Larriell Scarborough, D.C.
3-5; 3-15; 3-22-98

Public Notice

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF HANCOCK COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
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ATTENTION INVESTORS!

Hwy. 90, Waveland - 111' Road Frontage
(+30' easement), Property runs street to street to Old Spanish Trail - 30' easement.
Existing A-frame building on site.
Lot dimensions: 111'x422'x30'x100'x150'x357'
Asking \$140,000

Great Fixer-Upper! - West Gulfport Old Victorian - two story, 4 bedroom/2 bath, 2089 sq. ft., high ceilings. First \$49,500 Buys!!

Please call Susan Smith
GERTRUDE GARDNER REALTORS
467-1602 or 452-4261

OPEN HOUSE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY FROM 10 TO 5 P.M., OAKS SUBDIVISION IN BAY ST. LOUIS - NEW HOMES BY LIFESTYLES 2000 UNDER CONSTRUCTION!! BUY NOW AND CHOOSE YOUR CUSTOM FINISHES!!

COMPLETELY REMODELED with a designers' touch! 4 bedroom/2 1/2 bath brick home in Idlewood subdivision. Offering imported decor, formal living and dining, French doors, cathedral ceilings, 1/p, walk in closets, central vacuum, double garage and more. (82164)

WONDERFUL 2 BEDROOM/1 BATH HOME with glassed front porch, nice side yard, central heat and air. Great neighborhood! Plus a 1 YEAR ERA HOME WARRANTY! (83181)

WATERFRONT HOME 3 bedroom/3 bath less than 1 year old. Bulkheaded boat dock and ramp piers-high ground in Jourdan River Shores 2,400 sq. ft. Call (228) 255-3622 for more details. (86900)

2,290 SQ. FT. OF BEAUTIFUL LIVING on 4.75 acres located in the heart of Kiln. This new construction has hardwood floors, cherry cabinets, and a bonus room above garage. Call (228) 255-3622 for more details. (86024)

SPACIOUS LOT located on Forest Street in Timber Ridge: across the street from the golf course: great lot for your first home: cleared, filled, and ready to build. (86701)

IMMACULATE 2 BEDROOM, 1 BATH HOME in Pass Christian sited on 3 lots. PCI golf course is across the street. No water in home since Camille. (85686)

TCHOUTACABOUFFA RIVER FRONT PROPERTY- breath taking view! Brick path ways, Mexican tile, wet bar, bulkheaded and decks galore. Call (228) 255-3622 for more details. (84959)

Bayshore Realty
467-0244 OR 255-3622
www.ERA online.com

Public Notice

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
Sealed bids will be received by the Board of Supervisors of Hancock County, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, until 2:00 p.m., April 3, 1998, for the construction and installation of a new 1000 sq. ft. addition to the existing 1000 sq. ft. building located at 150 Main Street, P.O. Box 429, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi 39550, or by calling 467-4221. All interested parties are invited to view the plans and specifications at the Hancock County Clerk's Office, 150 Main Street, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi 39550, or by calling 467-4221. The plans and specifications are available for review from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the day of the bid opening. The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids. The Board reserves the right to waive irregularities and to accept any and all bids.

Timothy A. Keller, Clerk, Board of Supervisors, Hancock County, Mississippi
By: Terry E. Guarnard, D.C.
3-15; 3-22-98

BID ADVERTISEMENT
Sealed bids will be received by the Hancock County School Board in the Office of the Superintendent, 1730 Highway 903, Kiln, Mississippi 39556 until Wednesday, April 1, 1998, 3:00 p.m. for the following:
Network Wiring at Hancock North Central Elementary School, Hancock High School and Vot-Ch Center in Hancock County, Mississippi. Wiring to include supplies and labor.

Specifications may be obtained at the Office of the Superintendent, or by calling 467-4221. Call Rick Sauter at 463-9885 for further information on bid specifications. All bids should be sealed and marked plainly on the outside of the sealed envelope. "BID ENCLOSED FOR NETWORK WIRING". The Board reserves the right to waive irregularities and to accept any and all bids.

Terry Randolph, Superintendent of Education
3-15; 3-22-98

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
Sealed bids will be received by the Director of Materials Management for the Board of Trustees of Hancock Medical Center for 1 each, under contract for a Laser System until 3 p.m., April 7, 1998. Bids will be opened in the office of the Administrator at 11 a.m. on April 7, 1998.

Specifications may be obtained from the Materials Management Department of Hancock Medical Center, Waveland, MS. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

ROBERT H. BAXTER, SECRETARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
BY: BERNARD CHEVALIER, DIRECTOR
ATTEST: JAMES L. HANCOCK, CLERK
HANCOCK MEDICAL CENTER
3-22; 3-22-98

NOTICE TO BANKS AND LENDING INSTITUTIONS
Notice is hereby given that the Board of Commissioners of the Diamondhead Fire Protection and Solid Waste District of Diamondhead, Hancock County, Mississippi, will meet on Wednesday, April 1, 1998, at 10:00 a.m. at the Diamondhead Fire Protection and Solid Waste District Office, 2409 14th Street, Gulfport, Mississippi 39502, to consider the following:

1. To consider the purchase of a new fire engine and related miscellaneous items on a parcel of land located near the intersection of Laurel Street and Kiln Street, Diamondhead, Mississippi 39552.
2. To consider the purchase of a new fire engine and related miscellaneous items on a parcel of land located near the intersection of Laurel Street and Kiln Street, Diamondhead, Mississippi 39552.
3. To consider the purchase of a new fire engine and related miscellaneous items on a parcel of land located near the intersection of Laurel Street and Kiln Street, Diamondhead, Mississippi 39552.

Legal description is Part of NE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 35, Township 16N, Range 14W, City of Waveland, Hancock County, Mississippi 39552.

INTERESTED PARTIES MAY ATTEND AND MAKE ORALS. For additional information phone 465-2349, between hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

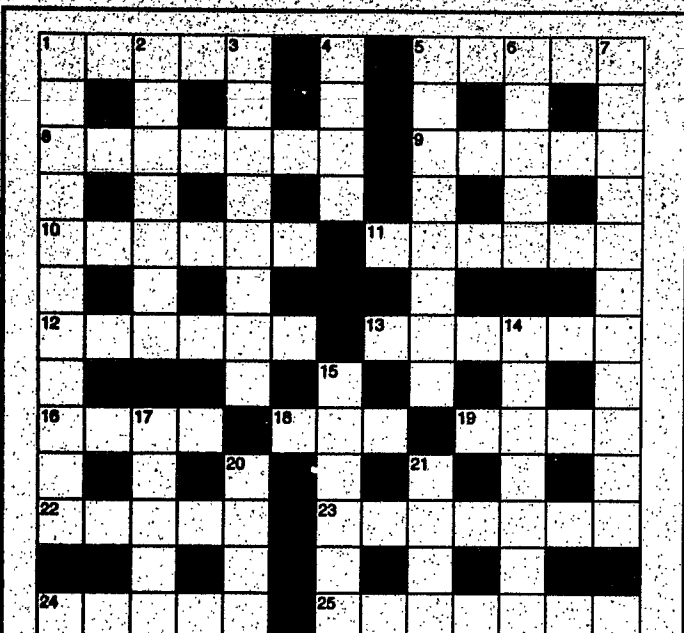
Kath Mitchell, Zoning Officer
3-15; 3-19; 3-22-98

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
The Bay St. Louis Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, March 25, 1998, at 7:30 p.m. in the City Hall Annex, 111 Court Street, to consider the following:

1. To consider the preliminary subdivision plat approval. The property in question is located on Third Street and is described as Part of Lot 228, Fourth Ward, Bay St. Louis, Hancock County, Mississippi. It is zoned R-2. Robert D. Bobinger - application for a 10-foot variance to the side yard setback requirements in order to construct a carport. The property in question is located at 325 DeMontez Street and is described as Part of Lot 17 and 18, Block 2, Perkins Subdivision, Bay St. Louis, Hancock County, Mississippi. It is zoned R-2. Robert D. Bobinger - application for a two-foot variance to the side yard setback requirements in order to construct an accessory structure. The property in question is located at 325 DeMontez Street and is described as Part of Lot 17 and 18, Block 2, Perkins Subdivision, Bay St. Louis, Hancock County, Mississippi. It is zoned R-2. Robert D. Bobinger - application for a two-foot variance to the side yard setback requirements in order to construct a fence which is eight feet in height. The property in question is located at 325 DeMontez Street and is described as Part of Lot 17 and 18, Block 2, Perkins Subdivision, Bay St. Louis, Hancock County, Mississippi. It is zoned R-2. Robert D. Bobinger - application for a two-foot variance to the side yard setback requirements in order to construct an accessory structure. The property in question is located at 325 DeMontez Street and is described as Part of Lot 17 and 18, Block 2, Perkins Subdivision, Bay St. Louis, Hancock County, Mississippi. It is zoned R-2. Robert D. Bobinger - application for a two-foot variance to the side yard setback requirements in order to construct an accessory structure. The property in question is located at 325 DeMontez Street and is described as Part of Lot 17 and 18, Block 2, Perkins Subdivision, Bay St. Louis, Hancock County, Mississippi. 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TRAVEL & ENTERTAINMENT

128- THE SEA COAST ECHO - SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 1998



CLUES ACROSS

1. Faith
5. Masticate
8. Chest
9. ...hai, Chinese city
10. Large integer
11. Fabric
12. Assuaging
13. Welfare
16. Dedication
18. Acted towards others
19. Cain and ...
22. Elastance unit
23. Antelopes
24. Dashery
25. Captivity

CLUES DOWN

1. Caught stealing
2. Coal blacks
3. Dweller
4. Biological groups
5. Went down
6. Calculating machines
7. Classifies
14. Pronounced
15. Usages
17. Pulse
20. From a distance
21. Armadillo

SOLUTIONS ACROSS

1. Obeah
5. Champ
8. Toolbox
9. Shang
10. Thirty
11. Calico
12. Easing
13. Health
16. Oath
18. Had
19. Abel
22. Daraf
23. Impalas
24. Haber
25. Serfdom

SOLUTIONS DOWN

1. Out at second
2. Ebonies
3. Habitant
4. Taxa
5. Cascaded
6. Abaci
7. Pigeonholes
14. Labeled
15. Habits
17. Throb
20. Afar
21. Apar

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'Art in Bloom' featured at museum

A "perennial" favorite in New Orleans, "Art in Bloom," returns to the New Orleans Museum of Art March 25 through 29 for its 11th year of flowery fun, featuring art-inspired floral arrangements by garden clubs, artists and local celebrities; fanciful tablescapes by interior designers; and a display of bonsai and ikebana creations.

A new category, sponsored by Centex Landis Construction Company, will feature birdhouses designed by local architects. The birdhouses will be displayed at Maison Blanche on Canal Street and then will be auctioned off at Art in Bloom.

The festivities kick off with a casually elegant patron and preview party, sponsored by Benson Motor Company Mercedes-Benz, the evening of Wednesday, March 25.

Besides getting first peek at the fanciful florals, party goers will be treated to gourmet offerings from 30 of the area's finest restaurants and caterers and will get to participate in a silent auction featuring the aforementioned birdhouses and gifts for the garden, as well as jewelry, art, antiques and more. Patron Party levels vary upward from \$125. Cost of a ticket to the Preview Party is \$75.

Art in Bloom's traditional lectures and luncheons continue this year on Thursday, March 26.

At 10 a.m., Chris Giftos, master floral designer and director of special events at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, will demonstrate his renowned floral techniques and share an inside look at the parties he plans at The Met in the lecture "A Bouquet from The Met." His lecture is sponsored by Bank One.

An 11:30 a.m. luncheon is catered by Regency Caterers by Hyatt and features informal modeling from Maison Blanche, luncheon sponsor.

At 1 p.m. garden designer Norman Kent Johnson (a Louisiana native) will dazzle in "Beyond Everyday Flowers." Johnson is founding editor of *Garden Design Magazine* and served as garden design editor of *Southern Living* and associate editor of *Landscape Architecture Magazine*.

Tickets for the morning or afternoon lecture and luncheon are \$60 each. Tickets to both lectures and the luncheon are \$110. Seating is limited and the event usually sells out, so advance tickets are necessary.

Art in Bloom opens to the public at 2 p.m. Thursday, March 26, and remains open through 5 p.m. Sunday, March 29. Museum admission during Art in Bloom remains \$6 for adults, \$5 for ages 65 and up, \$3 for ages 3-17, and free for members.

There are two workshops on Friday, March 27, at The Pavilion of the Two Sisters in City Park.

At 10 a.m., Chris Giftos of

The Met will conduct a hands-on workshop on creating a unique floral arrangement.

At 1 p.m., Virginia Moseley and Patrick Tandy will conduct a workshop on creating tabletop arrangements using flowers, fruit and natural materials.

Moseley and Tandy have been featured in *Southern Accents* and *Southern Living*.

Tickets to the Chris Giftos workshop are \$100. Tickets to the Moseley/Tandy workshop are \$50. Tickets to both workshops plus a box lunch are \$150. Advance tickets are recommended.

Informal demonstrations will be conducted for museum visitors at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 28 and Sunday, March 29 in NOMA's Freepoint-McMoran Great Hall.

On Saturday, Jack Siciliano, proprietor of Petal, Parties and Pretties, will demonstrate fabulous floral arrangements. Kathryn B. Larroque, local floral designer and past president of Lakeview Botany Guild, will present Sunday's demonstration. Both demonstrations are free with museum admission.

But Art in Bloom is more than lectures and workshops. For the four days of this spring celebration, NOMA will be filled with the sight and scent of flowers.

Exhibitor categories are artists, garden clubs from near and far, professional floral designers, professional exterior and interior designers, young artists from area schools, and local celebrities and business people.

Exhibitors will create floral arrangements inspired by NOMA's artwork and, in the case of the garden clubs, will be judged.

In NOMA's Asian Galleries, the Greater New Orleans Bonsai Society, Northshore Bonsai Inc. and the Ikebana International N.O. Chapter 97 will display the quiet beauty of their Asian-influenced work.

Another favorite category is the fantastical tablescapes created by local designers, artists and merchants. Past years have seen tables wrought from roses, a tribute to Dr. Seuss, and romantic scenes featuring fine antiques, and 1998 is sure to be equally creative.

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MON-FRI: 7, 8, 9 SAT-SUN: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9

THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK
MON-FRI: 7, 8, 9 SAT-SUN: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9

TITANIC
MON-FRI: 7 ONLY SAT-SUN: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9

WEDDING SINGER
MON-FRI: 7, 8 ONLY SAT-SUN: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9

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Gillespie Gallery presents 'A Room With 3 Views'

The Sarah Gillespie Gallery will open a new exhibition, "A Room With 3 Views," Thursday, March 26.

The exhibit will feature the work of three graduating seniors: Nancy Plazo Couch, Marjorie Monde and Melinda Youngblood, who each will be receiving a bachelor of fine arts degree.

Couch, an Ohio native began her studies at Kent State University. With three years experience as a foundry apprentice in Athens, Ohio, Couch "believes that technical skill in the manipulating of materials is every bit as important as the content or concept of the work."

Before moving to the Mississippi Gulf Coast, Monde was an advertising director for NATO in Naples, Italy.

"I experiment with integrating computer work and traditional painting methods. I strive to create art that reflects the movement, spirit and beauty of things past and present, utilizing techniques on the cutting edge of the future."

A native Mississippian, Youngblood finds art and the creative process to be an enjoyable experience, although hard work.

"With my painting I focus mainly on design and color, and in my pottery I deal with unconventional shapes, therefore, creating unique pieces."

The exhibit will open Thursday, March 25 with an opening reception, 7-9 p.m. The public is invited to the reception to meet the artists and to view this collection free of charge.

The exhibit will run from March 26-April 9 and may be viewed during regular gallery hours, 1-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday following the evening of the reception, or by appointment.

The Sarah Gillespie Gallery is also featured on the Mississippi Gulf Coast 51st Annual Pilgrimage Friday, April 2, 9 a.m.-noon.

The gallery is located in the Fairchild Administrative Building at William Cary College on the Coast.

For information, contact Oona M. Elliott at (228) 987-7215.

TRAVEL NOTES

TOM BURNS

Connoisseur Alaska Cruise
• Connoisseur Cruise on Princess Cruise Lines "Island Princess" for 10 nights. Cruise from Anchorage to Homer, Kodiak, Seward, College Fjord, Hubbard Glacier, Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan, Inside passage and into Vancouver.

• \$1,839 per person, double occupancy.

St. Lucia
• Deluxe Le Sport Hotel "The Body Holiday." Package includes: airfare from New Orleans on American Airlines, five nights at beachfront resort, all meals, unlimited drinks, with complimentary spa and beauty treatments, unlimited massages, tennis, full health club, volleyball, all watersports, transfer and hotel taxes.

• \$1,575 per person, double occupancy.

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- Remodeling tips
- Garden guidelines
- Home spring cleaning

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SPECIAL EDITION
MARCH 22, 1998

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Helping the environment begins in your own back yard

There are many things you can do for the environment beginning in your own yard. Surprised? You may not realize that the natural carpet surrounding your home provides many environmental benefits.

"Many of us take our lawn for granted," says horticulturist Michael Gaffney of the Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA).

"Healthy grass helps prevent runoff and soil erosion, and it helps clean the air by converting carbon dioxide to oxygen. That's just a few of the grass plant's beneficial traits."

The U.S. Congress noted the benefits of grass and other vegetation in a 1990 Farm Bill: "... low growing dense perennial turfgrass sod in urban areas and communities, can aid in reducing carbon dioxide emissions, mitigating the heat island effect, and reducing energy consumption, thus contributing to efforts to reduce global warming trends."

To reap its many benefits, a lawn must be well-maintained. "Improper mowing and watering can weaken your lawn's ability to help control pollution and nurture the soil," says Gaffney. PLCAA recommends following these basic lawn maintenance tips to enhance your lawn's environmental benefits:

- **Soil sampling.** Consider having your soil sampled and analyzed. Make sure your soil has the correct pH level and key nutrients for healthy growth.
- **Grass selection.** Only use new and improved variety mixtures or blends that grow well in your climate, meet your quality expectations and can accommodate your lawn activities, such as heavy use by children at play.
- **Mowing.** Mow at the highest recommended height and mow often, never removing more than one-third of the leaf surface. Keep lawn mower blades sharp and grasscycle. Grasscycling, or leaving clippings on the lawn when you mow, allows nutrients to return to the soil.
- **Watering.** Water deeply but not too often. In general,

watering should moisten the soil to a depth of 4 to 6 inches. Too much water can cause water quality and grass problems, increasing the chance of fungus, or runoff and leaching of nutrients. And, it's a waste of our precious water resources.

- **Fertilization and pest control.** Apply the right amount and kind of fertilizer and pest control products at the right time, and only when needed. Follow all instructions and precautions.

To help with your maintenance needs, consider hiring a professional lawn care service. Many homeowners do — over

the past four years, demand for lawn care services rose by 12 percent, according to a 1997 Gallup Poll. Make sure the service is a member of a professional association like PLCAA and check the company's service record by calling your local Better Business Bureau.

For information on the benefits of grass, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope requesting a free copy of "The ABCs of Lawn & Turf Benefits" to: PLCAA, 1000 Johnson Ferry Road, NE, Suite C-135, Marietta, GA 30068. Visit PLCAA's web site at: www.plcaa.org.

Make your home look like a million

Today's value-minded consumers are looking for effective yet affordable ways to rejuvenate their homes. The American Society of Interior Designers Wear-Dated Freedom Carpet offer these tips for decorating on a budget.

- **Be patient.** Most people aren't able to invest all their time, energy and money into decorating every inch of their home. Start with one room, take your time and build as you go along.
- **Think long-term.** Invest in high-quality furnishings and demand durability, particularly for floor coverings and furniture. These items should stand the test of time so that they will look good for years to come.
- **Keep your design simple but effective.** Choose bold focal points that will attract attention, such as a piece of artwork, interesting pieces of furniture or a wall unit.
- **Paint.** Applying a new shade of paint is the single most inexpensive way to change the impact of a room. Wallpaper borders or painting techniques, such as sponging or ragging, are easy and effective ways to add interest to your walls.
- **Replace accessories.** At-

tention to details, such as pillows, books, picture frames, magazine racks or vases can make the difference between a room with belongings and a room that belongs.

- **Refinish, restyle and rethink.** Sand a dark-stained finish on furniture, floors or cabinets to the natural wood color as a way to brighten up a room. Stain light-colored woods with a darker finish to add warmth to a room.

Recover your furniture, either by re-upholstering or by using slip-covers. Or, cover an old table with fabric to give your furniture a face-lift.

- **Visit garage sales and flea markets.** Keep a keen eye out for treasures, such as lamps, antique furniture and artwork to add a unique touch to your home.

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Prevent fires, fatalities

Smoke detector maintenance key in keeping home death, flame free

Fires started in homes by cigarettes, arson, electrical malfunction and other causes result in about 6,000 deaths in the United States and Canada each year, and more than 31,000 injuries. Billions of dollars worth of property are lost as well.

There are many important precautions families can take to prevent fires in their homes.

These include keeping matches away from children, unplugging small appliances when leaving the home and storing fuels, paints and battery acid in tightly closed containers away from ignition sources.

Smoke detectors are the most important fire-safety items in the home. Smoke and deadly

gases spread faster and farther than flames and heat.

More than 80 percent of United States homes have smoke detectors installed and when properly used and maintained, smoke detectors save lives.

Unfortunately, one-third of all home smoke detectors, it's believed, are inoperable due to dead, disconnected or missing batteries.

However, there are some necessary precautions families can take to protect themselves should a fire start in their home:

- When purchasing a smoke detector look for the Underwriter Laboratories (UL) label, which indicates fire-code standards have been met.

- Check to see if the detector operates with a common battery. Those that don't frequently have a custom battery that can be hard to find in stores.

- Dust and test detectors monthly. Test an alarm by exposing it to smoke.

- Replace the batteries in all home smoke detectors once a year.

- Place detectors in key locations throughout the home — one at the top of each stairwell leading to sleeping areas and one on each floor and/or each distinct living area, including the basement and the attic.

- Keep at least two fire extinguishers in the home — one in the kitchen and one in the furnace area.

- Prepare escape routes and plan and practice regular family fire drills.

Use cooling equipment wisely

When selecting an air conditioner, buy the most energy efficient unit you can afford. An energy-efficient unit will cost more, but it will pay you back every month in lower electric bills.

Energy-efficient air conditioners will also help the environment, because less electricity will be needed to cool the same space.

Nationwide, this means less fossil fuels will be burned by utilities to generate electricity. And this keeps the air we breathe cleaner for everyone. Therefore, getting the most use from every kilowatt of electricity is good for your monthly electric bill and for the environment.

Energy Efficiency Ratings

When selecting a new home cooling system, be sure to compare "Energy Guide" labels. The label will state how energy efficient the unit you are considering is.

It will also detail how much it will cost to run over the course of a year, based on varying hours of use and cost per kilowatt-hour of electricity.

Here are some important

electricity-saving tips to follow when using your central or room air conditioner:

- Change the air conditioner's filters every month or two, depending on how dirty they are. You should be able to see light clearly through the filter. If not, it is dirty.

Properly weatherproof your home. Weatherstripping doors and windows, and adding attic insulation, if necessary, keeps the hot air outside.

- Consider home improvements such as installing reflecting glass windows, double-span windows, and awnings to reduce heat gain from the Sun.

- During the day, keep curtains drawn and shades pulled over windows facing east, west and south.

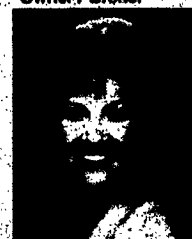
- Move furniture away from the air registers, allowing for the free flow of cooled air.

- Most air conditioners can cool a house or a room in half an hour. So don't leave them running if you are away for a long period. Consider a set-back thermostat that will turn the unit on a half hour before you are due home.

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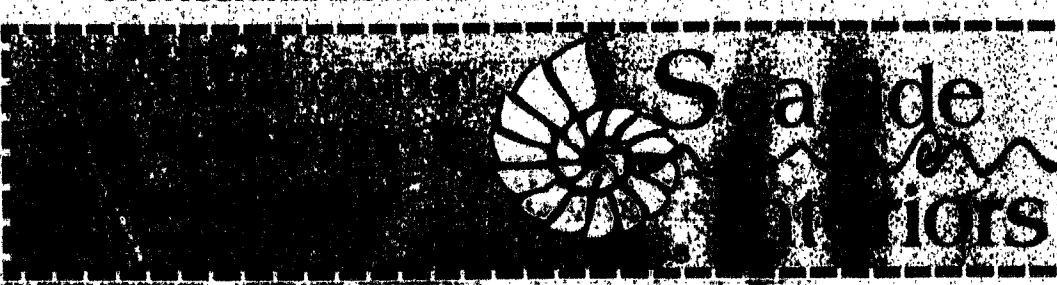
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Common sense protects home eliminates household pests

Cockroaches are probably the most repulsive household pest. Homeowners dislike them so much they spend \$2 billion yearly to eliminate them.

Cockroaches enter homes through infested grocery bags, produce and kitchen appliances, traveling between apartments via openings around water pipes and electrical lines. Outdoor species get inside through cracks and around doors and windows.

To control these pests, Lisa Cortner, executive director of The HomeCare Council, the consumer education arm of Enforcer Products, Inc., recommends several steps:

- **Try a natural solution first.** Apply non-vaporizing boric acid powder in a thin layer under and behind stoves, refrigerators, washers, dryers and cabinets.

Though it is effective, boric acid takes two weeks or longer to kill substantial numbers of roaches.

- **Give more attention to infestation.** There are insecticides to be released over time to kill roaches and other insects. Tiny droplets of insecti-

cide are microencapsulated or coated with a tough material that holds up in high heat, humidity and direct sunlight.

Because the insecticide is sealed inside the coating, little is exposed to the environment during application.

Apply insecticide to dark corners, cabinets, closets, along baseboards, windows, door frames, under sink and stove, refrigerator and around plumbing. Use outdoors on buildings, patios, screens and doors.

- **Remove food and water sources.** Wipe crumbs and spills from counters, keep dishes washed and place food in

sealed containers or in the refrigerator.

Don't leave pet food out overnight. Repair all plumbing leaks and old washers.

- **Seal cracks and crevices.** Caulk cracks in walls behind baseboards and around pipes and ventilation hood exits. Sealing all cracks and crevices will also prevent cockroaches from traveling between apartments.

For more information about controlling pests and to receive a free HomeCare Kit, write The HomeCare Council, P.O. Box 609, Emerson, GA 30137.

Use common sense when taking care of your lawn

Do you wake up early on the weekend and blow yard debris from your lawn or mow late into the evening? Do you, your children or pets enter the lawn immediately following a pest control application? If you answered yes, then you need to change your lawn care habits.

The Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA) advises homeowners to use common sense when caring for their lawn. Leaf blowers, mowers and any outdoor power tools should be used during reasonable hours—not early in the morning or late at night—so you won't wake up or anger neighbors.

When using leaf blowers, never blow debris onto an adjacent property, the street, vehicles, people or pets. Leaf blowers should not be used within 10 feet of doors or windows. You should stay off any treated areas of your lawn until dry, if possible, for 24 hours following a pest control application. Professional lawn care services post signs after making an application to alert surrounding neighbors that an application has been made. You can alert your neighbors, too.

According to PLCAA, not following common sense lawn care practices can hurt the environment, lead to over-regulation of the products and equipment you use, and even make you an undesirable neighbor.

PLCAA advises homeowners to think safety first when tak-

ing care of their lawn. Here are a few common-sense tips:

1. Know how to operate the equipment and follow all safety instructions.

2. Dress properly for the job and wear protective clothing, sturdy shoes and safety glasses.

3. Handle gas and chemicals carefully—read the label and store all products out of the reach of children and pets.

4. Keep children and pets away when operating equipment.

5. Keep off a treated lawn until it is dry, or, if possible, for 24 hours following an application.

For more common-sense advice, order a copy of "Q & A—What You Should Know About Lawn Care Products and Services" or "Pets & Your Lawn." If you decide to have a professional lawn care company handle all or part of your lawn maintenance needs, request "Tips On Choosing a Lawn Care Service."

To order these free brochures, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with the name of the brochure requested to: PLCAA, 1000 Johnson Ferry Road, NE, Suite C-125, Marietta, GA 30068. Visit PLCAA's web site at: www.plcaa.org.

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Protect children

Make your house a safety zone

School safety zones protect children from automobile accidents — and while they're in school, children are safe.

But what happens when they're not in school? According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, more school-age children die from accidental injuries than all other diseases combined.

Every year, about 18 million children require medical attention because of accidents. And most accidents are preventable.

Preschoolers are particularly prone to home-based accidents. With curiosity outpacing motor skills and judgment, they can fall, drown, choke, consume harmful substances, scald and burn, even electrocute themselves.

You can safeguard preschoolers — and older children — by making your home a safety zone, following the precautions in MasterCard's child safety information kit.

Scout your home from a child's point of view. Get down on hands and knees to examine every room for: sharp furniture edges and corners, uncovered electrical outlets, long cords on appliances, blinds and curtains, open windows and top of stairs.

Install corner bumpers, curved electrical outlet covers, cord shorteners, window locks and bar gates at all hazard points.

Use caution in the kitchen. Never leave small children alone in the kitchen, and use bar gates when you're not there.

Fasten kitchen drawers and cabinets with childproof locks or latches. Remove or cover stove and oven knobs when not in use, and use back burners for cooking, turning handles of pots and pans toward the rear.

Beware of the bathroom. Keep the toilet lid down or install lock so children can't fall in. Install anti-scald devices that stop water flow when temperature exceeds 120°F.

Get bathtub spout and knob covers to prevent scalding, bumps and bruises, and always test water before putting baby in the tub. Use childproof cabinets and drawer locks so children can't get into medicines, cosmetics and cleaning products.

Be alert in the nursery. Be sure that borrowed cribs meet today's safety standards. Older cribs might allow baby's head to become trapped between bars, or clothes to catch and cause strangulation.

Do not use a pillow for an infant. It's a suffocation hazard. Put fire rescue decals on windows to alert firemen to a child's room, and safety locks on all windows. Have a smoke alarm in the nursery and in all bedrooms as well as the basement.

Watch out for other household hazards. Put decals on sliding glass doors so children won't run into them. Get rid of door stoppers with rubber caps, which children can remove and put in their mouths.

Install safety gates at tops of staircases, and avoid thick rugs and shag carpeting, which can hide potentially choking small objects.

Keep fans high out of reach to prevent injury from whirling blades. Remove doors from discarded appliances to prevent trapping and suffocation.

Tips on tomatoes

Tomatoes are good for you nutritionally — and good fun to grow, especially with a handy new helper for home gardeners.

An innovative way to grow tomatoes and other climbing plants, the folding Tomato Tower is a versatile, easy-to-use alternative to the traditional method of support, metal cones.

The Tomato Tower can be configured as a triangle to provide self-staking support for tomatoes, or it can be unfolded to serve as a trellis for other climbing plants.

When the season is over, it folds flat for easy storage. A durable vinyl coating keeps the Tomato Tower looking great for years.

Other advantages of this new garden product include:

- Requires no plant tying.
- Reduces pest and wind damage for better results.

- Has no wires to provide better support than traditional cones.

- Can be placed over fragile seedlings or folded open to support mature tomato plants.

- Elevates plants for easier weeding and minimizes ground rot.

Available in two heights — 35 and 47 inches — the Tomato

Tower is sold in home center, hardware stores and lawn and garden outlets nationwide.

Free lawncare brochures

In honor of National Lawn Care Month in April, the Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA) offers several brochures for homeowners. These handy guides can help answer your questions about lawn care topics such as how to choose a lawn care company, and how your lawn can be an environmental hero and a water purification system with proper turf management practices.

The brochures are free. Simply send a self-addressed, stamped envelope noting the name of the brochure to: PLCAA, 1000 Johnson Ferry Road, NE, Suite C-125, Marietta, GA 30068.

For more information, visit PLCAA's web site at: www.plcaa.org.

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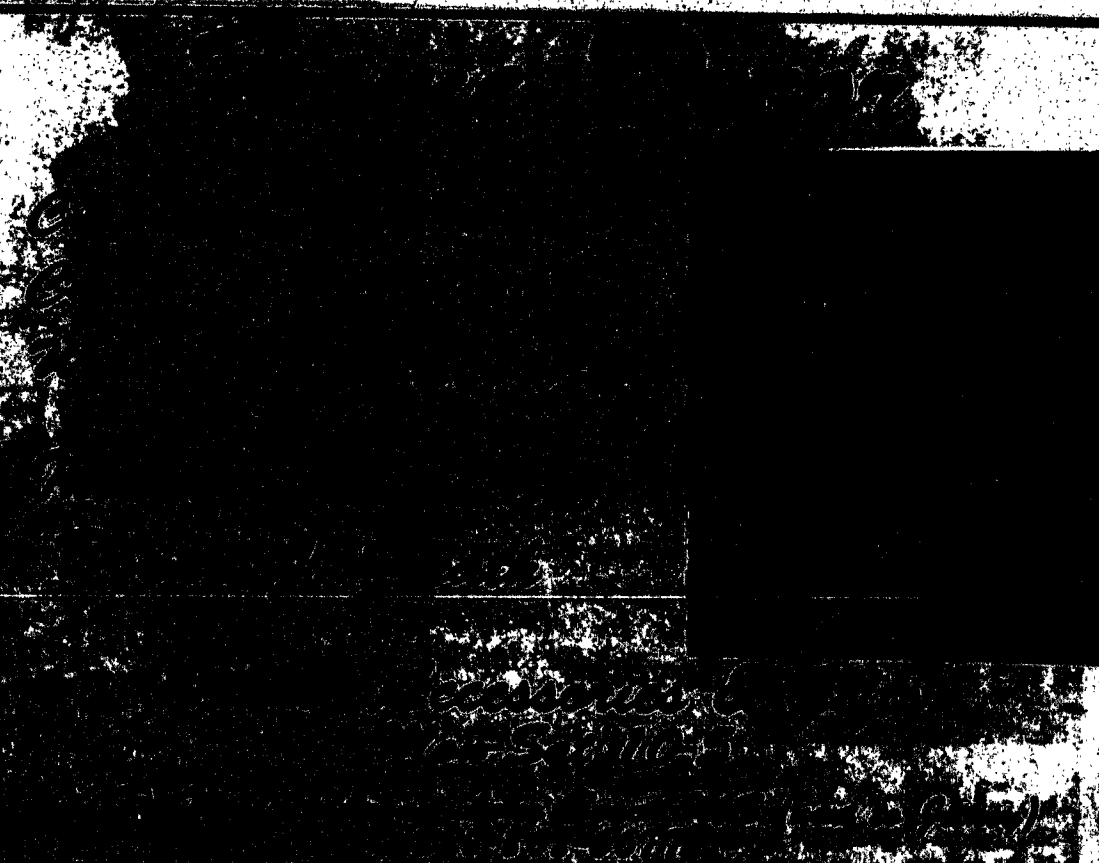
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Planning guarantees remodeling success

A home addition or remodeling project can add value to your life and to your home. Best of all, the project doesn't need to be extensive or expensive to provide you with more space today and increased value at resale time.

Before you begin, remember that careful planning ensures happiness upon completion of a remodeling project.

This planning includes an important question to ask yourself and your family: "Do we have the time, talents and resources necessary to do the job ourselves, or should we hire a professional?"

Putting It On Paper
A successful start to any remodeling project is putting your plans on paper. Start with a thorough inventory of your home.

List what you like and dislike, and identify your current and future needs.

Next, list what you'd like to change about your home and develop a "wish list" of features for this new change. This list will be helpful as you proceed with planning and setting your budget.

Hiring A Designer

If your project involves moving walls, redesigning space or building a home addition, you'll probably need an architect or designer.

This person's professional expertise will ensure that the completed project enhances your home and satisfies you.

Consult with friends who have completed remodeling projects or check with a local professional association, such as the American Institute of Architects. Choose two or three architects to meet and discuss your project. Ask to see recently completed jobs and for the names of clients.

After you've chosen an architect, work closely with him or her while your plans are being developed. This is an important time to ask questions and to modify your plans.

Hire A Pro Or Do It Yourself?

Now that your plans are on paper, it's time to make the decision to do the work yourself or hire a professional remodeler.

Ultimately, you should consider quality. If the finished product isn't consistent with the rest of the home, the money saved will not be money earned at resale. Here are three questions to consider as you're making this decision.

- Do I have the time to do the job right?
- Do I have the skills required?
- Will the quality be consistent with the existing construction?

If you can't answer "yes" to all of these questions, then you'll probably be better off hiring a professional.

The next step is choosing a contractor for your project. Begin by developing a list of four or

five contractors referred by friends or associations, like the National Association of the Remodeling Industry or the National Association of Home Builders.

Use the following criteria to help choose a qualified contractor.

- Get rough estimates. Use your plan to describe what you want and find a realistic price range.
- Establish credentials. Contact the Better Business Bureau and see if the contractor is bonded and has protection for worker's compensation and personal liability.
- Ask for references. They are critical to determine the contractor's workmanship and business ethics.
- Get a firm bid by submitting the working blueprint to several of the best candidates. Make sure the contractors are using the same information on products used and work done.
- Once you're satisfied with a single contractor, get a written contract that outlines details of the project and each individual's obligations. This should include costs, payment schedules and penalties, if any.
- Most payment schedules require money down, an amount when the project is half done, and the balance upon completion.
- Never pay total costs in advance and make sure you are completely satisfied before making a payment.


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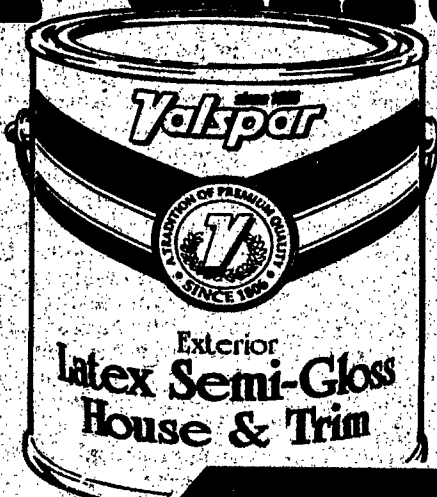
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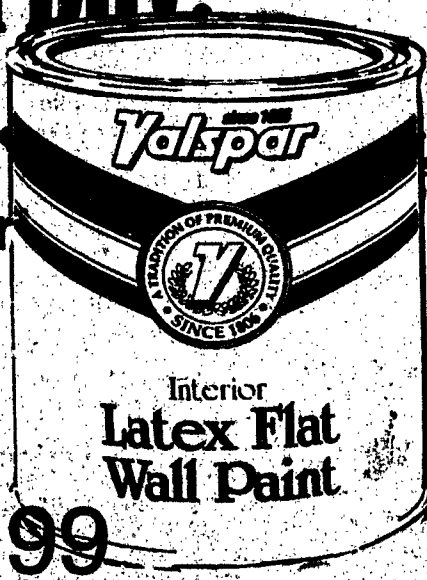
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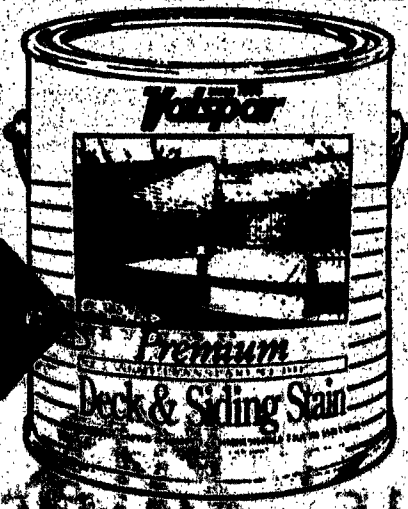


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Garden guidelines

Basic Soil Preparation
To achieve any kind of success in gardening, you will need to commit yourself to building and maintaining rich, healthy soil.

Soil improvement is an ongoing process that will reward you with fertile, well-drained, aerated, loose, evenly textured soil. It will be filled with worms, fungi, bacteria and other organisms that will help maintain its health.

Like the plants it brings forth and supports, soil is alive and changing. Gardeners should put as much care into building and maintaining soil fertility and structure as plant selection, plant care and garden design.

Preparation of a soil bed area should begin when soil is neither too wet nor too dry. Working the soil under either condition can greatly damage its structure.

Before preparing your planting bed, pick up a clump of soil and roll it into a ball. If the ball is putty-like or rubbery, it is too wet to work.

Wait a few days until it dries out a bit more. If the soil is too fine or dry to roll into a ball, water the area evenly and wait a day or two.

If your garden area has never been worked before, remove all sod and weeds wither mechanically with a rototiller or tractor, or by hand. Compost the removed weeds and sod.

Enriching Soil Naturally
For most flowers or vegetables, it will be sufficient to turn and work the soil to a depth of about 10-12 inches.

However, the deeper the soil

is worked, the better — especially for deep-rooted crops. Before you turn over the soil, spread a one- to four-inch layer of compost or other humus over the area. This layer should be deeper if you are working with very poor soil.

The compost should consist of a decomposed mixture of raw organic materials like leaves, grass clippings, well-aged manures and kitchen wastes. If you do not have your own compost pile, you can usually collect leaf mold and grass clippings from the local public works department, and manures from horse stables.

Work the organic matter into the garden bed to a depth of at least four to six inches. It is easiest to work in the compost by working the soil in strips.

Begin by digging a trench about one foot wide and shovel out the top 10-12 inches of soil.

This soil can be set aside to fill in the final trench of the bed. Dig another trench alongside the first and put its 10-12 inches of soil into the first trench. Continue this pattern until the entire area has been worked.

After the entire bed is loosened, turn, and the compost fully integrated, rake to smooth and level the soil surface. Finally, lightly water the bed to settle it.

Soil pH
Most garden plants grow best with a soil pH between 6.2 and 6.8, which is slightly acidic. The pH of a soil is important because essential plant nutrients become unavailable if the pH is either too high or too low.

A general rule of thumb is that areas that receive little rainfall with warm temperatures usually have alkaline soils or higher pH, while areas that are temperate with high rainfalls usually have acidic soils, or lower pH.

To know for sure, you should have your soil tested. Contact your local county service extension for information on where and how to test. For pH, or you can purchase a soil testing kit from most garden centers or mail-order garden supply catalogs.

If you are preparing a bed for plants that need acidic soils, like azaleas, camellias, rhododendrons or dogwoods, add

equal parts of peat moss, decomposed pine needles and compost to the root area where the plants will be planted to a depth of at least 18 inches or more if possible. This mixture should be pre-moistened before being incorporated in the planting hole.

To lower the pH, an addition of a sulphur or iron sulphate is worked into the soil. Follow the application guidelines on packages of these amendments to correct the pH level.

The pH can be raised by the addition of dolomitic limestone which also adds calcium and magnesium to the soil. Wood ashes will increase pH but it takes twice as much as the amount of limestone to achieve the same result.

However, ashes also add potassium, phosphate and boron to the soil.

Soil Tests and Fertilizers

Soil tests can also determine the relative nutrient levels in the soil so adjustments can be made to correct any nutrient deficiencies.

With regular additions of compost, you should attain adequate fertility in the soil over time. If soil fertility is poor, you may need to add direct sources of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium.

These are the major nutrients essential for all plant growth. They can be immediately increased with an application of chemical fertilizer.

Commercial fertilizers list the relative amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium as the N-P-K ratio.

For example, a bag of 10-5-5 fertilizer has a higher nitrogen content than phosphorus or potassium. Nitrogen, which promotes leaf development in plants, can be increased organically by incorporating blood meal, fish meal, cottonseed meal, or hoof and horn meal into the soil.

Phosphorus promotes root development and cell division, string stems, root growth and disease resistance. It can be added in the form of potash, kelp meal, greensand or crushed granite.

If your soil is very poor to start with, an application of kelp or seaweed is an excellent source for supplying trace elements.

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Smart 'Yardening' Natural Yard Waste Solutions

They tell you to leave the clippings on the lawn these days, but what do you do about the thatch—that nasty brown layer of dead and dying grass that builds up on the surface? And how about leaves and garden wastes? The town won't pick them up anymore and composting seems to take forever!

Yard waste accounts for over 20% of the solid refuse in America's shrinking landfills. Many states and municipalities are limiting, even banning, the

dumping of lawn waste. As a result, composting at home is being encouraged as the alternative means of disposal.

Bacterial compost products can cut natural recycling times in half without harming the environment. You can recycle leaves, grass, weeds, even reduce thatch build-up in your lawn.

Roebic Composting Products contain non-pathogenic bacteria which are capable of degrading all lawn and gar-

den wastes. These bacteria are similar to naturally occurring soil organisms and work with the natural bacteria to provide fast and effective results.

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For a free booklet on smart yardening, send a SASE to "Compost" c/o Roebic Laboratories, Box 927, Orange, CT 06477.

Give your home a spring cleaning

Now is the perfect time to give your home a spring cleaning after winter's harsh months.

By taking advantage of the milder weather to tackle projects around the house now, you can get a jump on spring and improve your home's appeal and resale value.

And with the rising cost of energy, more and more homeowners are looking for ways to make their homes more energy efficient.

Here are some steps you can take to help save money year-round on your home fuel bills.

Insulate
The attic is always a great place to start your springtime clean-up. While you're up there, make sure your insulation meets new recommended levels issued recently by the Department of Energy.

Adding extra insulation can help reduce the amount of energy you use to cool your home this summer, and heat it next winter.

Before you select a contractor, find out how long the company has been in business, the type of projects they've done, and ask for a list of satisfied customers.

Get a written estimate for the job that includes all job specifications and the contractor warranty. Before any work begins, a contract must be signed and retained by both of you.

Weatherize
In many older homes that have not been weatherized, air leaks can account for up to 30 percent of a home's wasted energy.

Even if you caulked and weatherstripped within the last few years, new air leaks can appear each season. Weatherizing your home now can also help reduce this summer's energy bills by helping to keep the cool air in your house.

If drafty doors and windows were a problem in your home this winter, now is the best time to add weatherstripping to help prevent energy loss all year.

Plant A Tree
Trees and shrubs will make your yard more colorful, and can also help reduce energy costs if they're planted strategically.

Plant deciduous trees—those that drop their leaves in the fall—in front of sunny windows, to help block summer sunlight. In the winter, sunlight will filter through the bare branches to warm your living area.

Hardy, low-lying evergreens and shrubs planted close to the foundation of a house slow heat escape during the winter, and reduce heat entry during the summer.

Add Shades, Blinds or Awnings

Attractive window treatments add color and beauty to your home both inside and out, and also help keep sunny rooms more comfortable in any season.

During warmer months, window shades or blinds drawn on sunny days help block the heat from your home.

Keeping them open during

the winter helps warm a chilly room. In the summer, outdoor awnings will help shade your windows and keep indoor temperatures cooler.

Lighten Up!

Homeowners waste half of the electricity generated each year by lighting unoccupied rooms or squandering it on inefficient lighting sources. About 90 percent of the energy consumed by incandescent bulbs is given off as heat, not light.

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Mowing safety only takes a moment

Mowing the lawn on a miserably hot day when there's a long list of errands and chores can tempt some of us to take risky shortcuts.

But don't do it, cautions the Professional Lawn Care Association of America (PLCAA), because "mowing safety only takes a moment."

"People who mow and maintain lawns for a living know how important it is to keep safety in mind," said Ann E. McClure, CAE, executive vice president of PLCAA.

"The professionals walk a lawn first to be sure there are no toys, tools or dog chains hidden in the grass. These things can be thrown by the mower blade or can damage the mower. They know it only takes a moment to prepare properly... or to have something go wrong."

McClure points out that the tip of the rotating cutter blade on a mower can reach speeds up to 200 miles per hour. They can throw objects a long distance

with considerable speed.

"That's why we've adopted the slogan 'Mowing safety only takes a moment' in radio and television public service announcements," McClure said.

"We want to remind people that it doesn't add a lot of time to the mowing job to do it the safe way."

Wearing proper clothes is another part of safety preparation. Wear sturdy shoes with traction soles, and long slacks with shirt tails tucked in.

Avoid dangling jewelry or anything that can get caught in lawn mower controls.

"Each children that mowers are serious cutting tools," said PLCAA public relations committee chairman Bob Tracinski, consumer information manager for John Deere.

"Be sure they're in the house and under supervision before mowing. And never take passengers. Once you give children a free ride on a lawn tractor, you never know when they'll come back for a second one."

When it's time to give a mature teenager the weekly responsibility of mowing the family lawn, give them proper instruction.

Read the operator's manual together. Be sure they understand the controls. Supervise them the first few times.

"Preventive maintenance is another important aspect of

mowing safety," Tracinski said.

"Keep the mower in good repair. And this is vital: Keep all safety devices in place and working."

Tracinski said that some riding mowers and tractors are equipped with a seat safety switch that automatically shuts off the engine should the operator leave the seat while the mower deck is running.

"Avoid blade contact by reminding yourself that the high-speed blades fill the mower deck, reaching nearly to the edge of the housing," Tracinski said.

"If a clog develops, use a stick or tool to clear the discharge chute opening — never your fingers."

When mowing a sloping lawn or hillside with a walk-behind mower, mow back and forth across the face of the slope. That way, if you trip, the mower will not fall on you.

When mowing a slope with a riding mower or tractor, go up and down for greatest stability. Plant a groundcover on steep, risky slopes.

PLCAA is a national trade association representing about 1,000 lawn care companies in the United States and Canada.

Established in 1979, PLCAA develops educational programs, defines industry standards and serves as a national voice for the lawn care industry.

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Here are some tips from the experts at Roebic Laboratories on how to keep those friendly bacteria healthy and working.

- Don't pour cooking grease or fat down the kitchen sink drain.
- No meats, or bones, either — Use kitchen garbage disposals for vegetable and other non-meat scraps only.
- Don't rinse paint brushes in sinks.

- Prevent drain and trap clogs with regular treatments of a natural product such as Roebic's K-67 Bacterial Drain and Trap Cleaner.
- Avoid doing several loads of laundry back to back. The high detergent levels will shock the system and displace large volumes of partially treated sewage into the drainfield.
- Use a minimum of harsh chemical products, bleach or acid-based commercial cleaners.
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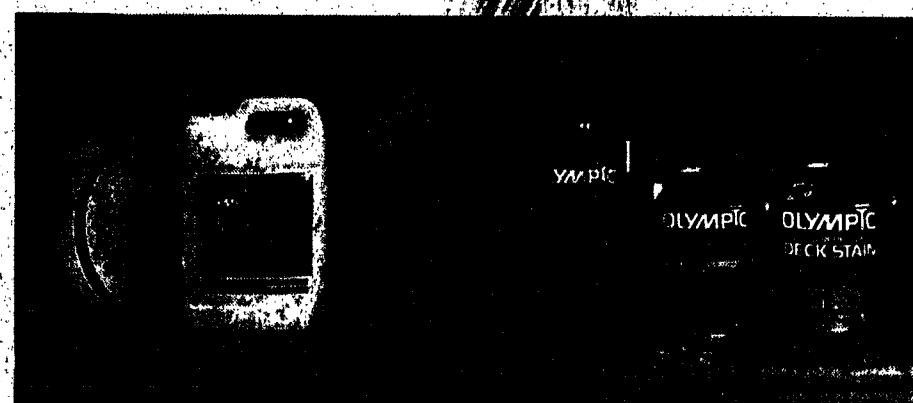
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Wildflower meadow gardening

• **Seed or plant?** Plants will definitely give the quickest, surest results; however, plants are much more expensive than seeds. The size of your proposed meadow will help you make this decision.

• **Select a mix.** Choose a mix that is appropriate for your specific location and situation. Regional mixtures are designed to fit the broad cross-section or conditions that generally exist within any one geographical region.

In addition to this, you must

look at the local environment, i.e., variations in soil, slope, drainage, exposure, elevation and climactic conditions (rain-fall, temperature range and humidity).

Most mixes contain a combination of perennials, reseeding annuals and grasses. These grasses are non-aggressive clump grasses (e.g., Chewing's fescue and blue fescue) that grow quickly and provide soil stabilization. You can substitute a more attractive native grass for fescue but most of the natives grow very slowly and are not effective soil stabilizers during that early, crucial period. Planting wildflowers with a combination of natives and re-seeds is an effective alternative.

• **Seed preparation.** Most varieties do not require special treatment; however, legumes such as lupine, clover and seep pea depend on specific nitrogen-fixing bacteria in the soil for root nodulation.

In some soils, the bacteria is not present in sufficient quantities so seeds must be inoculated with the proper bacteria before sowing.

• **Soil preparation.** Proper soil preparation is critical for both prompt germination of seed and the healthy growth of seedlings. (Consult your county agricultural agent or local soils lab for assistance in correcting a soil problem).

Common methods for breaking up soil include plowing, disking, harrowing and, if feasible, rototilling; however, we recommend only a light disturbance of the soil, such as disking.

Water- and air-holding capacities of soil may be improved by adding peat moss, weed-free straw or other organic material. Do not add fertilizer unless the soil is extremely depleted of nu-

trients. Fertilizers encourage weed growth and lush foliage rather than flowers.

• **When to sow.** The best time of year to sow seed is when the soil is warm and the seasonal rains can encourage germination.

• **Planting techniques.** Either hand-broadcast the seed or use a mechanical device such as a cyclone seeder or a hydro-seeder. After sowing, rake the seed lightly into the soil. Keep the ground moist until the seedlings appear. Germination will usually take place within two to three weeks.

• **Maintenance.** Water seedlings if plants are stressed by dryness. Once the wildflowers are established, relatively little maintenance is required unless there is a weed problem.

Mowing once in the late fall or late winter will help prevent unwanted volunteer hardwoods. Some reseeding will be required each year for maximum effect.

Don't Poison or Overload Your Septic System

A septic tank and system is a simplified version of an "on site" sewage treatment plant. If a sewage treatment facility is misused, or overworked, the "effluent" (cleansed water) from the facility will be improperly treated. In other words, the facility will fail to properly do its job. The same is true for a septic system.

A septic system requires a healthy population of living anaerobic bacteria to break down solid waste. Never add harmful substances by either pouring them down the drain or by flushing them down the toilet.

Chemical cleaners, household chemicals such as bleach, motor oils, petroleum distillates, pesticides, paints and disinfectants, will kill helpful bacteria and slow your system down.

Paper towels, hair, plastic applicators, and other hard-to-degrade and/or non-biodegradable trash should also be kept out of septic systems. Also, try not to do several loads of wash back-to-back as the volume of water and detergents will overwhelm the system, even displace untreated sewage outside of the system.

If your system slows down or stops, try adding a good bacterial product like Roebic K-57 Septic System Cleaner.

For a free booklet all about maintaining a trouble-free home septic system, send a self-addressed stamped business size envelope to: Plumb Smart, c/o Roebic Laboratories, Box 927 Orange, CT 06477.



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Proper planning is important to any home-improvement job

Before the birds begin to sing in the trees, homeowners already have their spring home-improvement projects planned. Whether it's replacing windows, reshingling the roof or installing new flooring, they're ready to take action as soon as the weather gets warm.

Whether people are doing the work themselves or hiring professionals, proper planning is an important part of any home-improvement project. When hiring a contractor, people need to know exactly what they want done, so they can meet with professionals, explain the work and get realistic estimates. Do-it-yourselfers need to plan ahead to ensure they have set aside enough time for the project, have the right equipment and materials, and understand the work that needs to be done.

Having the proper equipment means not only having the tools specifically designed for the task at hand, but also having tools that are in good

condition. It is a good idea for do-it-yourselfers to check that tools are in working order before beginning a project. All handles should be fixed firmly into the tool's working end, and jaw teeth, cutters and blades should be sharp. Any tools that are damaged should be thrown away.

If, when planning a project, do-it-yourselfers find that they don't have a tool they need, they can buy, rent or borrow it. Renting or borrowing allows them to see if they like a particular model or brand, making the decision easier when they finally decide to buy the tool. If people want to buy the tool, many home-improvement professionals recommend going to a knowledgeable local dealer.

After getting the proper equipment, people should follow the manufacturer's instructions when using each tool. Tools should be kept clean, dry and away from excessive heat. Before using a tool near electricity, people

should shut off the current. They also should use steady pressure on jaws or cutters, instead of rocking the tool.

With the proper planning and right tools and materials, people are well on their way to a successful project and a more beautiful home.

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No time to clean?

(MS) — Every home needs a good cleaning, but with people working so much, it's not an easy task. However, with the rise of dual-income households, having a maid is no longer considered a luxury reserved for the wealthy. More and more middle-income families are using some type of outside cleaning help. So, do you hire a self-employed maid or go through a cleaning service?

The advantage of using an independent maid is that he or she often will be as flexible as you require as far as what you need done. However, an excellent reference from your neighbor isn't enough. You must ask:

- Is this person insured for lost or broken items?
- Have you done a thorough background check?
- What does this person do for backup if he or she has to cancel?
- What happens if this person is injured while cleaning your home? Will you be liable?

These concerns make cleaning services an attractive alternative. "A reputable service will have fully bonded and insured employees, who have undergone a background check prior to being hired," explains Don Hay, president of Maid Brigade Cleaning Service, the Atlanta-based cleaning service that is taking the industry by storm. "In addition, we services send out a team that is headed by a supervisor and backed by a fully staffed home office that can support them if

backup is necessary." How do you identify a reputable service? Hay suggests these questions:

- How long has it been in business?
- What do current clients think of the service?
- Is there a national organization behind the service?
- Is it insured?



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Tips to save your lawn

During those times that temperatures are well above average, many neighborhood lawns start to show signs of damage. According to the Turf Resource Center (TRC), an international not-for-profit organization based in suburban Chicago, homeowners can take steps to help their lawns survive and recover more quickly once the heat breaks. Recommendations will depend on the availability of water for the lawn.

Where Water Is Adequate
To protect the economic and environmental value of a lawn, homeowners in those areas where water is not heavily restricted are encouraged to take the following steps until temperatures return to lower levels:

- reduce traffic on the lawn or spread the necessary traffic across as wide an area as possible;
- do not apply nitrogen fertilizers or pesticides;
- water late at night or early in the morning;
- water infrequently and deeply, avoiding frequent light sprinklings;
- increase watering near buildings and other heat-

reflecting surfaces;

- be cautious not to overwater just because water is available;
- mow only with a sharp blade;
- raise the mowing height 25 percent or more;
- mow often enough so that no more than the top one-third or one-half of the grass blade is cut at any mowing;
- leave the clippings on the lawn as you mow, unless they produce clumps.

Where Water Is Restricted
Just as trees prepare for winter by shedding their leaves, nature has provided grass multiple ways to protect itself from adverse weather.

Depending upon the overall availability of water for landscape use, homeowners can choose one of two alternatives during prolonged heat waves:

1. Apply the available water only to a select area of the lawn that is most meaningful to the landscape;
2. Apply no water to the lawn, allowing it to go dormant naturally and turn tan or brown. With either choice, traffic on the lawn should be prohibited because it will not be able to withstand additional damage.

Turfgrass scientists have documented that more lawns

are damaged or destroyed from overwatering than under watering, and that it is better to restrict irrigation than to intensively irrigate for a portion of a drought period and then miss several weeks. Brown lawns actually may be stronger than excessively or inadequately irrigated ones.

Once The Heat Breaks
When more normal temperatures return or water becomes more available, water immediately to begin restoring soil moisture, wash the grass blades, and rehydrate the dormant grass crowns and buds. Slow, deep soakings that avoid run-off are recommended by the TRC.

In a couple of weeks, as the grass becomes green, apply a reduced amount of a balanced fertilizer. Ideally, the fertilizer ratio for nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium should be 4-1-2. In about a month, consider applying a herbicide to kill any weeds. Spot applications or total lawn applications should be determined on a case-by-case basis, depending upon the level of weed infestation. Eliminating competitive weeds will make more water and nutrients available to the grass so that it can thicken and ultimately crowd out future weeds.

A solution to roofing worries

Q: After just a few years, my roof shingles are curled, cracked and stained with fungus. I'm ready for something better, and I've heard that metal roofing eliminates these problems. Should I consider a metal roof?

A: Yes. Metal roofing is a great alternative to the common problems you're experiencing with traditional roofing shingles. Metal roofing does cost more upfront than typical shingles or tile, but it's actually cheaper because it lasts many times longer, requires less maintenance, and provides a better appearance (and greater value) for your home. Metal roofing has advantages in every climate, especially in areas with threats of fires or airborne sparks, severe storms, or extreme heat or cold. Some metal roofs even can be installed directly over your existing roof, preventing the added cost and mess of a tear-off.

Q: Won't a metal roof make my house hotter in the summer?

A: It depends on the metal. Steel absorbs and transfers

the heat of the sun, but not all metals do. Aluminum, for example, reflects radiant heat; that's why NASA uses aluminum to shield satellites in space, where there's no atmosphere to scatter the heat of the sun.

One metal roofing manufacturer had its aluminum roofing product, called Rustic Shingle, tested by the Florida Solar Energy Center. The center found it to reduce attic heat gain by up to 34 percent more than traditional roofing materials. This can add up to big savings on your utility bills. If you decide to use a metal roof that is not aluminum, you will need to install a radiant-heat barrier in your attic to get any energy savings.

Q: I don't like the "industrial" look of flat metal roofing with vertical lines. Are there alternatives?

A: You are describing "standing seam" roofing, so named for the vertical seams that stand up between the panels. And, yes, there are many alternatives. Most popular are the products that look like natural wood shakes, tile or slate.

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Edgy about siding?

Here's how to hire an installer

(MS) — Calling an exterior remodeling contractor is like undergoing plastic surgery. "You hope it looks better when they're done, but you pray they don't mess anything up in the process," says Gary Heitsch, marketing services manager for Rollex Corp., a major manufacturer of vinyl, aluminum and steel siding system products. "There's a lot at stake, so it's understandable when homeowners feel edgy about siding."

How do you find a competent and trustworthy siding contractor? They're out there, you just have to do some homework. For starters:

- Look at new siding jobs in your own community. When you see something you like, track down the contractor's name.
- Ask friends and acquaintances for referrals.
- Ask your local lumberyard's contractor-sales department.
- Talk to local building materials distributors. They don't sell to the public, but they sell to contractors and know the market. They can point you to professionals with good reputations, according to Heitsch.
- Visit contractors' booths at local home-improvement fairs.
- If you're still stuck for names, consult local newspaper classifieds and Yellow-Page advertising. A listing, however, is no guarantee of satisfactory work.

Meanwhile, closely inspect the exterior of your house. Take notes about everything that looks like a problem. Later, use this as a checklist to see which estimating contractors pay attention to details. Consult reference books and

home-improvement magazines at the local library. When a contractor tells you that one product is better than another, you'll be able to ask the right questions.

Now you're ready to approach prospective contractors:

- Ask for local references. To avoid being steered to happy customers, be sure to get the last job he or she completed, along with one completed several years ago. You'll get a feel for his or her present-day performance, as well as how well his or her work holds up.
- Ask past customers if there were any problems and how they were resolved. Was the work area kept clean? Was anything damaged? How close were the time and cost estimates? Did workers show up regularly and on time? Most importantly, would they hire the same contractor again?
- Look for experience installing the kind of siding material you're contemplating.
- If contractors have to be licensed in your state, get their license numbers, and verify them with the government. Call the Better Business Bureau or local consumer-protection agency to check for complaints.

Narrow your list to three contractors, and solicit competitive proposals on the same work requirements: brand of siding and product specifications (thickness or gauge, color or style), scope of the project, and start-up and completion dates.

Ask the contractors to show proof that they're bonded and carry property, personal liability and worker's compensation insurance. Verify this with their insurance companies.

"Though there's no way to guarantee that you're hiring a great contractor, you can reduce your risk of hiring a bad one," writes Timothy O. Bakke in Home Mechanics magazine.

After you've picked a contractor, make sure your written agreement exactly reflects the work described in his or her estimate. It should indicate who is responsible for obtaining work permits. The contractor should warranty his or her work.

"The manufacturer's warranty only covers the quality of the siding, not the installation," Heitsch says.

Work that was merely discussed won't get done unless it's in the contract. To prevent misunderstandings, ask that technical language be spelled out. If you want more than new siding, like soffit panels, fascia, gutters and downspouts — the exterior trim components that outline the features of your house — make sure these items are specified in the bid and contract documents.

The contract should specify what materials are required and who'll provide them; start and completion dates for the project, along with any provisions for late-completion penalties and early-completion bonuses; total amount to be paid by the homeowner; a schedule of progress payments, including a down payment that shouldn't be more than one-third the total price; and, any late-payment penalties.

The agreement should state that the contractor will provide you with lien waivers and an affidavit listing all his or her suppliers before you make your final payment.

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Hot, humid weather blankets much of the United States during the summer, causing sleepless nights and forcing people to seek shelter in the cool safety of air conditioning. This spring, a few simple projects and cooling practices can help you increase your home's energy efficiency, reduce utility bills and make your home more comfortable during the hot summer months.

• **Prevent air leaks** — When hot air leaks through windows and under doors, your cooling system works overtime to keep your home — and you — cool. Sealing cracks, crevices and openings can be one of the most important and effective ways to prevent costly warm-air infiltration into your home. The exterior of your house is your first line of defense against drafts, so caulk and seal around windows and where siding or bricks and wood trim meet. You also can reduce air leaks inside the home by caulking, sealing and weather-stripping around windows and interior door frames and near electrical boxes and plumbing fixtures, all of which are fair game for air infiltration.

• **Insulation isn't just for winter** — Insulation resists the flow of heat, which also helps keep the warm summer air outside and cool condi-

tioned air in the home. According to the Department of Energy (DOE), keeping your attic or top-floor ceiling well-insulated can reduce the load on cooling equipment by up to 30 percent, which means lower utility bills. The DOE recommends that most homes have R-38 insulation, which is equal to 12 inches of fiber glass blanket insulation installed in the attic. Most homes have less than 6 inches of attic insulation — especially those built before 1975 — and probably can benefit from adding another layer of insulation.

To make the job easier, consider using an attic insulation product that is specifically designed for the do-it-yourselfer. Owens Corning, for example, makes a virtually itch-free insulation product called PINKPLUS® insulation featuring Miraflex™ fiber, which is available in an R-25 (8 1/4 inches). To find specific DOE R-value recommendations for your area, contact Owens Corning at 1-800-GET-PINK, or visit the company's Web site at <http://www.owenscorning.com>.

• **Ventilation** — Proper ventilation can relieve the buildup of heat in your attic, increase the effectiveness of your cooling system, and protect the performance and longevity of your roofing and insulating systems. Installing roof vents, soffit vents and baffles help keep the air flow in the attic constant and reduce the moisture level, resulting in a home

that is more comfortable and energy efficient. Check to ensure your attic rafter vents are free of debris and repair any damaged vents.

• **Efficiently keeping cool** — You can keep cool this summer, while minimizing energy usage and utility bills by having a professional serviceperson check the cooling system annually to assure maximum energy efficiency. If you are purchasing a new air-conditioning system or window unit, look for one with the Energy Star® label. These units are among the most energy-efficient products in their category.

Set your thermostat at about 78 degrees, a reasonably comfortable and energy-efficient indoor temperature. Close vents in rooms not often used, keeping the cool air in areas you frequent. Planting trees, shrubs and vines around your home and air-conditioner unit will provide shade in the summer, helping to reduce cooling costs.

For additional information on improving your home's energy efficiency and how to lower energy bills, visit the Hometime® Web site at <http://www.hometime.com>.

Dean Johnson is the host of the popular home-improvement television show, *Hometime*®, now in its 11th season on public television. In addition to his role as host, Johnson is executive producer of the show and president of Hometime Video Publishing.

Create outdoor decor

(MS) — Three words strike fear into homeowners each summer — repainting, restaining or replacing wood lattice — a frequent activity for most homeowners.

Lattice is a popular piece of outdoor decor found on decks, patios, porches and gardens from coast to coast. Perfect for climbing plants, privacy and shade, it creates outdoor elegance and ambiance.

However, as any homeowner will tell you, lattice looks great when new, but is a nightmare to install and maintain. Insects, snow, moisture and wind attack lattice throughout the year, causing colors to fade, staples to rust and wood to break or separate.

Building with lattice or replacing it this summer? Plastic lattice provides the

beauty of wood without the installation and maintenance frustrations. Available in a variety of classic patterns with an array of colors, it offers homeowners more design options and creativity.

Made from the same material as pickup truck bed liners, plastic lattice is lightweight and won't crack or split like wood because of its durable one-piece design. Immune to insects and environmental conditions, plastic lattice is UV stabilized and unaffected by chemicals, sea air and acid rain. Unlike wood, it never needs to be repainted or restained. The color goes all the way through, so nicks and scratches will not show.

For a free lattice idea book, call TUFF-BILT at 1-800-394-0879.

Ask when

(MS) — Sh right tractor for be confusing. I brands and, a they seem simi an investment i for years. To ge worth. Simpli turing Inc. reci beyond the shir pare the desi quality of diffe asking these qu

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Ask the right questions when shopping for a tractor

(MS) — Shopping for the right tractor for your yard can be confusing. There are many brands and, at first glance, they seem similar. A tractor is an investment that should last for years. To get your money's worth, Simplicity Manufacturing Inc. recommends going beyond the shiny paint to compare the design, features and quality of different models by asking these questions:

HOW WELL IS IT MADE?

Ask about the design and manufacture of the tractor to assess its quality and durability. To assure longevity, look for all-steel construction, including the hood. Also, check the tractor's frame design. For maximum durability, look for a channel frame design that has been welded for added strength. Different gauges of steel support critical stress areas, making a channel frame more rugged than the single-piece stamped frame usually found on less-expensive units.

HOW WELL DOES IT CUT?

There are three keys to a great cut: the mowing deck, the turning radius and the traction. Examine how the mowing deck is mounted on the tractor. Look for an axle-mounted mowing deck that "floats" freely and adjusts to changes in terrain. This deck mounting system follows the contours of your yard, reducing scalping and providing a smooth, even cut.

Another sign of a great cut is the ability to maneuver around landscaping, which minimizes the trimming required after mowing. Look for a tractor with a tight turning radius to complete the job efficiently; one that's capable of mowing around trees and

shrubs in one pass. Finally, just like in a car, look for features that improve traction. Good traction ensures that the tractor's wheels will not slip when climbing steep inclines or mowing wet, slippery areas.

HOW EASY IS IT TO USE AND MAINTAIN?

Remember, a tractor should make your yard chores easier and less tiring. The design and ergonomics of a unit do make a difference. Simplicity suggests that you have the products demonstrated by dealers before you buy. You should sit in the seat and then ask yourself: Is the seat comfortable and easily adjustable for different operators? Are the controls conveniently located? How simple are key operator tasks, like adjusting the cutting height or engaging the mower deck? Also, while you are at the dealership, make sure that routine maintenance truly is routine. For example, you should be able to detach the mower deck easily and without special tools.

WHAT IF THE TRACTOR NEEDS SERVICE OR YOU NEED ADVICE?

Your best assurance that the tractor you select will meet your needs and continue to work for you in the future is to buy it from a knowledgeable, servicing dealer. A dealer has the ability to counsel and advise about a number of lines and knows which companies provide the best parts service. He will, himself, have a well-stocked inventory of service parts and accessories.

You will find that servicing dealers are able to offer trade-in allowances and credit or financing packages. Addition-

ally, they will properly prepare the unit for the required task, allowing the operator to achieve maximum performance and longevity from the equipment.

For more information, call 1-800-987-5296.

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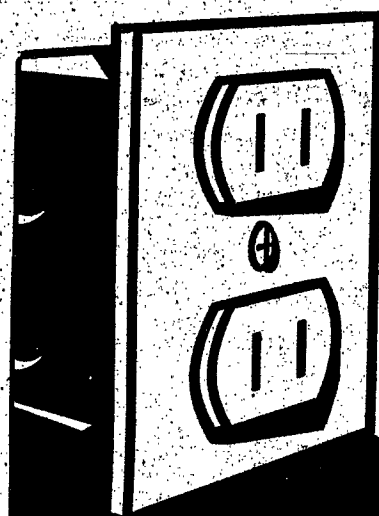
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Yards need 'spring cleaning' too

(MS) — When spring cleaning this year, don't forget about the yard. Trees, shrubs, plants and flowers need just as much attention as the rest of your home.

There are a lot of products that will help to perk up the outside of your house and keep it looking good throughout the summer.

One of the first things you can do to give your yard a fresh look is to get the landscape beds in shape. The best way to do this is by using landscape fabrics, which professionals have been using for years. Instead of fussing with messy chemicals or the old black plastic, more home gardeners are using one of the most popular landscape fabrics, WeedBlock, which stops weeds by blocking out the light that the weeds need to grow. At the same time, this fabric permits the flow of water and air, which are essential for plant growth. It is easy to use and can last for several years in direct exposure to the sun.

WeedBlock is great to use before the temperatures rise, because it also helps retain moisture so that landscape beds will be prepared for the hot summer months. You'll spend less time pulling weeds in the hot sun.

Using landscape fabric is easy. Prepare your landscape bed, spread the fabric over the plants, cut holes to the sizes needed and pull the fabric down around the plants. Then, spread mulch, bark or stone over the fabric.

Another way to give your yard a fresh look is by planting new plants and flowers. A non-

toxic spray, CloudCover, helps plants prosper by protecting them from transplant shock, summer heat, wind and winter stress.

This spray is an acrylic polymer antitranspirant which forms a thin film that reduces water loss through the leaf but still lets the leaf breathe normally. It helps hold the moisture in plants, which is important for new plants because their roots haven't become sufficiently established to search for water.

Once all of your new spring plants are in place, the next step is to nourish them well. One of the best ways to do this is by using the popular Jobe's Fertilizer Spikes. The spikes feed plants at the root and continuously provide them with the right amount of nutrients.

Easy to insert, the spikes aren't messy and won't wash through when watered. When you're ready to use them, just water the area where they're to be placed. Then, hammer the spike 1 to 2 inches below the ground's surface around the plant's drip line.

Don't forget to perk up your existing plants with these spikes, which are inexpensive and available in specific formulas for a wide variety of plants and trees.

A great way to add a finishing touch to your yard is by using edging. There are several different types of easy-to-use edging on the market today that offer a neat and clean appearance, a decorative look, and a barrier between your landscape beds and your lawn.

One of the best-selling edging products is Emerald Edge. This long-lasting, green plastic

edging won't rot, rust, crack, chip or fade and comes in lightweight sections that securely connect to form a continuous border and barrier. Easy to cut, the edging is durable, yet flexible enough to create curves and tree rings.

To use this popular product, lay a garden hose in the desired edging position, and drive the edging into the ground by striking the scalloped top with a mallet. To ensure placement and to maintain a barrier above the surface, be sure to drive the edging 3 to 4 inches into the ground.

For a decorative look, you may want to try TerraCotta Tiles, which feature the handsome look of terra-cotta but boast the strength of high-density, UV-treated polypropylene. This edging also is available in authentic stone color.

Made by Easy Gardener Inc., these tiles are simple to use and will last for years. The product comes in packages of four tiles that create a 3-foot border in both straight and curved lines.

To edge with TerraCotta Tiles, place a hose in the desired edging position, and use a shovel or spade to create a wedged opening next to the hose. Then, push the tiles into the ground as far as they will go.

Remember, when you're spring cleaning this year, don't forget your yard. With so many easy-to-use garden products available, it should be a breeze to spruce up your yard and keep it looking great throughout the summer.

For more information on these Easy Gardener products, call 1-800-223-5030.

Tips for Painting Paneling

Question: The walls of our family room are finished with dark, outdated paneling. We would like to paint the paneling a light color, but we're afraid the paint won't stick to the smooth, shiny surface. Any suggestions on how to go about this?

Answer: According to the experts at Wm. Zinsser & Co., a leading manufacturer of paint primer-sealers, painting paneling is not as difficult as you might think. The secret is to use proper surface-preparation products and techniques.

Finish paints will not stick to most paneling surfaces without the aid of a tough, durable, adhesion-promoting primer. The right primer bonds to the smooth, shiny surface, forming a sound base for the topcoat. Zinsser makes an adhesion-promoting primer called B-I-N Primer-Sealer that's ideal for painting paneling. B-I-N is unique because it's a shellac-based product. It has tenacious adhesion to most glossy-finished surfaces, like Formica, plastic laminate, and photographic or real glass paneling. Best of all, no prior sanding or deglossing agents are required.

This primer-sealer also will seal porous surfaces, like new wood, and seal off knots and sap streaks in knotty pine so they don't bleed through and ruin the paint job. B-I-N is water-

pigmented to block out dark stains and colors, and it dries to a smooth, full, even film that makes the topcoat look great. It dries rapidly, ready for topcoating in an hour. And, it cures fully in just a few hours, providing a tough, abrasion-resistant film.

Before priming, it's important to clean any contaminants, like dust, dirt and grease, from the surface. Zinsser recommends wiping the surface with a clean rag saturated with mineral spirits (paint thinner). Next, wash the surface with a 50-50 solution of household ammonia and water. Allow the clean surface to dry for approximately 30 minutes. Apply one coat of B-I-N Primer-Sealer with a roller, brush, pad or sprayer, and let dry for an hour. If high humidity conditions are present, allow longer to make sure the primer has dried thoroughly before applying a topcoat. Follow the primer with one or two coats of a top-quality finish paint. (Tip: You can have the primer tinted by your dealer to match the color of the topcoat, which can help save on the amount of finish paint needed for the job.)

B-I-N can be found at paint stores, hardware stores and home painters across the country. For more information, visit Zinsser's Web site at <http://www.zinsser.com>, or call (732) 463-4367.

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Plan For

(MS) — Perennial gardening is a hobby that enjoys a garden with the season's first delicate flowers that break through snow, to the hard autumn and all the beautiful perennials throughout the perennial garden for Perennials are increasingly popular seeds and bulbs able and as gardeners at the fact that effort up-front to continuously cheer flowers that return.

A perennial is a plant that more than one growing season. It becomes dormant in winter and returns in spring. The type of plant that you don't lose them to the frost. Most perennials by natural means without maintenance.

Dan Clement, a nursery manager for plant supplies, challenges perennial gardeners to plant varieties of plants that remain throughout the season.

If you're just starting with a perennial garden, you might want to consider perennials in a scheme. Pink anemones are popular, you could work with a perennial like Purple Coneflower of the sunflower family. A bold, sun-loving plant that grows in long time. Also, Bachelor Buttons, Anemones, Aspidistra, Delphinium, and Lavender.

Remember that generally take established perennials. For next year, Clements recommends planting Dianthus, Shasta, Delphinium — the first year.

Perennial gardens planted in a wet setting, from established bed plantings and there aren't any tations because provided plant will thrive under natural conditions. There are various

Plant perennials

For a garden that keeps giving

(MS) — Perennial gardening is a hobby for anyone who enjoys a garden that changes with the seasons. From the first delicate crocus flowers that break through the melted snow, to the hardiest mums of autumn and all the many colored beauties that appear throughout the summer, a perennial garden truly is a garden for all seasons. Perennials are becoming increasingly popular as more seeds and bulbs become available and as gardeners appreciate the fact that a little extra effort up-front will result in a continuously changing show of flowers that return year after year.

A perennial is any soft-bodied plant that survives for more than one growing season, becomes dormant during the winter and returns the following spring. The advantage of this type of plant life cycle is that you don't need to plant flowers every spring only to lose them to the first killing frost. Most perennials multiply by naturalizing (flowers that reseed and multiply in masses without human help or maintenance).

Dan Clements, Agway category manager for nursery and plant supplies, notes that the challenge of perennial gardening is to plant enough different varieties of plants so that your garden remains colorful throughout the growing season.

If you're just getting started with a perennial garden, you might want to consider planting perennials in a certain color scheme. Pink and purple flowers are popular this year, and you could work in some of the 1998 Perennial of the Year, the Purple Coneflower. A member of the sunflower family, this is a bold, sun-loving plant that is easy to grow and blooms for a long time. Also consider Pinks, Bachelor Buttons, Hollyhocks, Anemones, Asters, French Lavender, Pansies and Delphinium.

Remember that perennials generally take a year to get established. But there are exceptions, so if you can't wait for next year, Clements recommends planting Gloriosa Daisies, Shasta Daisies and Delphinium — all will bloom the first year.

Perennial gardens can be planted in a wide variety of settings, from borders and established beds to roadside plantings and containers. There aren't any natural limitations because nature has provided plant varieties that will thrive under almost any natural condition. There are vast assortments

of plants to suit the conditions of each garden. Clements says that to choose the right plants, first you'll need to determine the amount and type of sunlight, moisture and soil conditions in your garden.

The garden that receives full sun all day has the widest assortment of plants available for planting. Among the easiest to grow are the Purple Coneflower, Coreopsis, Gaillardia, Evening Primrose, Stoke's Aster and Daylily.

Shady gardens can be a beautiful invitation to add some extra color along a mossy stone path or stone wall. Hostas and ferns thrive in the shade, as do Bleedinghearts, Columbine, Creeping Philox, Virginia Bluebell and Jack-in-the-Pulpit.

A garden with some sun and some shade offers the opportunity to mix and match many different types of plants, but also challenges you to know just how much sunlight is available at what time of day. Some plants that thrive in part-sun/part-shade include Bee Balm, Corydalis, Cardinal Flower, Sweet William and Violets.

After you decide what perennials to plant, you need to focus on where to plant them. In general terms, the shortest plants go in front and

the tallest plants to the rear. A good idea is to mix your perennials so that all the plants that bloom at the same time are not side by side, and differently textured plants are intermixed.



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Keeping the lawn in shape

With the return of spring, homeowners begin to work on their yard, planting everything from beautiful floral borders to huge vegetable gardens. However, if their lawn doesn't look lush and green, the yard can lose its appeal and all of the work put into it could be for naught.

To help homeowners maintain a healthy lawn, The Lawn Institute recommends that they have a lawn-care program that works.

Many lawn-care experts believe that a majority of lawn problems are a result of not mowing at the proper height and not keeping the lawn-mower blade sharpened throughout the mowing season.

Every type of grass has a specific height for optimum performance. Keeping grass at its best growing height will increase a lawn's density and attractiveness and reduce problems.

A simple rule of thumb to follow when mowing is never to remove more than one-third of the leaf surface each time the lawn is mowed. Leaf surface, or cutting height, refers to the length of grass above the soil. According to the Institute, cutting below the optimum height impedes root development, which is essential to having a dense, healthy lawn.

Also, homeowners don't have to collect the grass clippings after they finish mowing. These clippings decompose quickly and put nutrients back into the soil, like a built-in fertilization program.

When it comes to watering a lawn, the institute says that the best lawns grow when they are watered heavily at infrequent intervals. On average, a lawn needs about 1 inch of water a week, either from rain or irrigation during the growing season. This inch of water normally will soak the soil to a depth of 4 to 6 inches, which allows the water to reach deep into the root system.

Homeowners should determine the rate of application of

their sprinkler system to set up any irrigation program. An easy way to do this is to set out a series of cans if they have an underground sprinkler system or a couple of cans if they use a single sprinkler. After running the system for 30 minutes, they can measure the water in the cans and determine the length of time it will take to apply 1 inch of water.

The best times to water a lawn are in the early morning

or early evening, when there generally is less wind and heat. The least desirable times are in the heat of the afternoon, when water evaporates too quickly, and very late in the evening, which can cause the lawn to stay wet all night. This encourages disease development.

With these tips, homeowners can be well on their way to a healthy, lush lawn — and a beautiful yard.

Roots in Your Pipes? Flush 'em Away

Tree roots are often attracted to septic systems and sewer pipes which contain water and nutrients trees need. When roots penetrate and grow inside underground piping, plumbing problems and expensive repairs are in store.

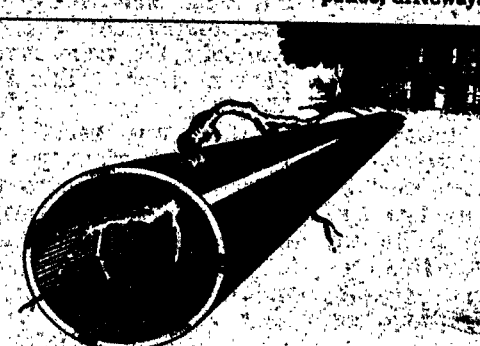
Fortunately, root problems can be prevented with several products available at home centers. Roebic K-77 Root Killer or Roebic Foaming Root Killer (FRK) will kill invading roots, but will not "burn" or "corrode" tree roots outside of the system.

After the root is killed, it will begin to decay in the bacterial rich environment and will eventually be flushed out of the system. Both products will work to clear a system that's already been invaded by roots.

Preventing roots before they get into the pipes is smarter. Used regularly, both K-77 and FRK will work to maintain a root-free system.

To prevent root growth from pushing up and damaging pavement alongside patios, driveways and walks, cut a 3" trough along the area near the offending tree, and pour in Roebic Foaming Root Killer.

For free booklet about septic systems, send a self-addressed stamped business size envelope to "Plumbing Smart," c/o Roebic Laboratories, Box 927 Orange, CT 06477.



Invading tree roots can clog underground pipes and shut down your household plumbing system. To avoid costly repairs use a root preventing product regularly. Simply pour it into the toilet or sink drain.

Repotting Is Vital to Plant Health

Repotting plants is as vital to their health as adequate watering. As a plant grows, its roots take up more and more space and diminish the amount of mixture in the pot, inhibiting plant growth and eventually resulting in poor plant health.

Permanent houseplants generally require repotting once a year until they reach a mature size. Outdoor plants that are grown from seed need to be repotted several times within the first few months until reaching maturity.

The following tips for repotting from Hoffmann, a leading provider of landscaping and gardening products, will help you select your plants on their way to vibrant health and new growth.

• Repotting is easy. Give your plant plenty of room on a surface that can handle exposed roots and soil.

• Choose a new pot that is one or two inches larger than the current one. You'll want 1 to 2 inches of space and 1 inch on the sides and top for the fresh potting soil.

• Place your hand on top of the pot,

with the main stem between two fingers. Turn the pot over and gently tap the rim against the edge of a table or tap your hand against the base of the pot. After a few taps, the root ball should loosen and the pot can be lifted away. If not, run a knife blade around the inside of the rim.

• Check the root ball for dead roots. If fresh root tips are showing all over the surface, the plant is ready to be repotted. If the roots are densely matted or are forming a thick spiral around the base, repotting is overdue and should be done immediately.

• Place enough potting soil in the bottom of the new pot, 1 inch below the rim.

• Add potting soil around the sides and work it in with a stick or your fingers, compressing it lightly. Then, add 4 inches of potting soil as top-dressing.

• Gently scrape away the top inch or two of existing potting soil with a spoon or small trowel. Remove as much soil as possible without exposing major roots.

• Refill the pot with fresh potting soil to the original level.



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The apical local garden

Turn Your Home Into a Spa: An Expert Shows You How

(MS) — The popularity of health clubs and day spas has helped bring amenities like saunas, steam baths and whirlpools into vogue.

Many have found the soothing warmth and therapeutic vapors of a sauna or steam bath to be the perfect antidote to the stress and hassles of everyday life. So much so, says one popular journalist and consultant to the home industry, that many homeowners now are looking for ways to get a true spa experience at home.

Jeremy Powers, a popular contributor to magazines like *Better Homes & Gardens*, *The Family Handyman* and *American Home*, says it's easy to bring such spa luxuries as saunas and steam baths into the home. He offers some tips on how to make your home a haven for relaxation.

Sauna for health and wellness: Saunas, which originated in Finland, have been a staple of family life there for more than 2,000 years. They're fast growing in popularity in this country, thanks to new evidence which suggests that saunas are good for both the body and the mind. The heat and relative humidity of a sauna improves circulation, promotes healing of sore or injured muscles, and cleanses pores, leaving the skin refreshed and younger-looking.

According to Powers, the range of sauna choices is expanding from small and portable to deluxe designer models, with a new generation of portable units now making it easy to fit just about any space. Measuring just 45 inches by 45 inches, the new Finnleo Thera-port can be installed in less than five minutes, requiring no special plumbing or tools and using standard 120-volt household electrical connections. Yet, while this sauna may be small in size, it offers the same soothing, soft heat and true wet/dry performance as its bigger brothers.

Contemporary design elements make today's saunas a

handsome addition to any exercise room or bath suite. Finnleo's Moonlight model, for example, features large windows, angled walls, light-grained interior and exterior woods, and low-voltage lighting for a contemporary look.

"When shopping for a sauna, pay special attention to the heater and to the volume of rocks used in the heater to generate steam vapors," says Powers. "You get greater surface area with more rocks which produces a softer heat and higher humidity at optimal sauna temperatures of 150 degrees to 180 degrees."

Steamy sensations: Steam baths provide the perfect warm-up to start the day or the ideal warm-down after a tough workout. Homeowners may be surprised to learn that new acrylic steam suites can be installed easily in an existing tub or shower space. Powers says popular steam suites from manufacturers like Helo are designed to fit a tub or shower footprint without major construction.

"Modular construction makes it easy to assemble a steam suite in even a small bathroom," says Powers, "or you can create a custom steam suite using glass blocks, ceramic, marble or granite tile combined with a vaporproof door." Sweat the details: Regardless of whether you go with a sauna or steam, Powers urges homeowners to tend to the small details that can add an extra degree of elegance to your home-spa experience. For a personal aromatherapy regimen, try steam-bath aromatic oils that surround you in billowing steam clouds of eucalyptus, mint, herbal or pine. And, Finnish linens, including towels and robes, wick away moisture and slough off dry skin, leaving your complexion positively glowing.

For more information on sauna and steam products, contact Finnleo at 1-800-346-6536 or Helo at 1-800-882-4352.

SH98749

Did You Know ...

(MS) — A tool kit is a must for every house, regardless of whether the occupants are experienced do-it-yourselfers or can barely tell a screwdriver from a butter knife. With a basic toolbox, a minor problem can be taken care of before it turns into a major catastrophe. The following is a list of tools that should be a part of every household's tool kit.

- Good hammer.
- Retractable tape measure.
- One small and one medium-size screwdriver.

- Adjustable wrench.
- Toilet plunger.
- Power drill, along with a complete set of bits.
- Inexpensive pair of wire cutters.
- Utility knife with a razor-sharp blade.
- Roll of electrical tape and roll of masking tape.
- Pair of pliers.
- Packages of nails and screws in all shapes and sizes.
- Pair of work gloves.
- Package of bandages, gauze pads and ointment in case of minor cuts and scratches.

SH986414

Extra Specials

Easy Repairs For Dog-Gone Bare Spots

(MS) — They're cute, they're cuddly, but oh, the trouble they cause. Dogs may be man's best friend, but they're also a lush green lawn's worst nightmare. Is your pet damaging your lawn? Repairing bare spots is easier than you might think.

Dig 2 inches of peat moss into the soil under the damaged lawn, spread seed, cover with a 1/2-inch layer of Canadian sphagnum peat moss and keep it moist for a week or two. You'll see green results in about 10 days.

For a free brochure filled with lawn-care tips, send a self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope with 32¢ cents postage to: Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss Association, Dept. TD1, "How-To Lawn Care" Brochure, Box 345102, Minneapolis, MN 55438.

Grow Plump, Fresh Tomatoes Easily

(MS) — Almost everyone has heard of fertilizer options for trees and shrubs, but do you know that there is such a thing as tomato fertilizer spikes?

This summer, give your tomatoes the nutrients they need with Jobe's Fertilizer Spikes for Tomatoes by Jobe's Garden Inc. When these concentrated spikes are stuck into the soil about 6 inches from the base of the plant, your tomatoes will feed the plant the equivalent of food for up to 10 weeks. The spikes can be found at most local garden centers, hardware

stores and chain retailers. For more information, call 1-800-223-5030.

Make Gardening More Enjoyable

(MS) — They mow and collect grass, till gardens, remove snow, and accommodate a front-end loader. Features on new tractors from Simplicity Manufacturing Inc., make garden tractors quick, easy to use and make gardening more enjoyable.

For more information, call 1-800-987-5296 or visit the company's Web site at <http://www.simplicitymfg.com>.

Give Your Yard an Extra Dimension of Beauty

(MS) — Traditionally, lattice — a framework of strips made from plastic, wood or metal that are interwoven to form beautiful patterns — has graced decks, porches and patios where it provides privacy and adds a more finished appearance to outdoor areas. It creates depth and dimension and is especially effective at capturing and centering attention.

Landscape with lattice is fun to do and creates eye-catching results. This summer, discover the beauty, practicality and versatility of lattice in the garden and around the home. For a free plastic lattice idea book, call TUFF-BILT at 1-800-394-6679.

GT986335

Miniature Roses Add Color to Gardens

(MS) — Miniature roses are won-

derful plants that bloom throughout the growing season and provide brilliant spots of color in landscape and other plantings.

The newest addition to the family of climbing miniature roses is Climbing Rainbow's End™ from Nor'East Miniature Roses Inc. With bright yellow petals with a crimson edge, these roses are great climbers for a trellis or arbor.

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Homespun solutions for spring repairs

(MS) — Winter's over, and the list of spring home repairs is a mile long. It could cost a fortune to tackle them all. So, before you head for expensive, quick fixes, take a look around.

Chances are, most of what you need is already lying around at home. Add just a couple of versatile "must-haves" from the hardware store, and you've got the formula to save time, money and effort this spring.

CHECK OUT YOUR JUNK

Everyone has that drawer where odds and ends finally are laid to rest. This junk palace is an eyesore, but the contents are more valuable than you might think. All of those half-used rolls of tape, tubes of glue, wire and old brushes could end up saving you time and money on your cleaning and repair jobs this spring.

START WITH THE OBVIOUS

If it's outside, it's going to need work. However, before you check on the winter damage to the deck, fencing and trees in the yard, try to get hold of one of the new lightweight, all-purpose handsaws that are now on the market. They're made with comfortable grip handles and can tackle just about anything, from storm-damaged tree branches to tough repair jobs around the home and yard.

Decks are great in summer, but they take a beating in winter. To check what needs fixing, scrub down the deck with

soap and water. Mildew and rotting wood will be easier to spot, and a cup of bleach added to your water for a second scrubbing will kill any remaining mildew.

Even the best water sealants won't keep the deck totally protected through a harsh winter, and fences can be damaged by heavy snow and yard debris. Instead of replacing the whole deck or fence, check out your local hardware store for replacement-size wood or off cuts. Clear a flat work surface, and use a couple of adjustable bar clamps to help ensure that your cuts are clean and accurate.

CHANGE YOUR VIEW

During winter, screens and windows are overlooked, and by spring, they need a major overhaul. Yet, don't waste money on special cleaners. Dust down your screens with an old paintbrush to shake off loose leaves, rust and dirt, then brush both sides with kerosene to protect thoroughly against rusting. Clear cement glue also is great for repairing small tears and holes to keep those pesky mosquitoes outside.

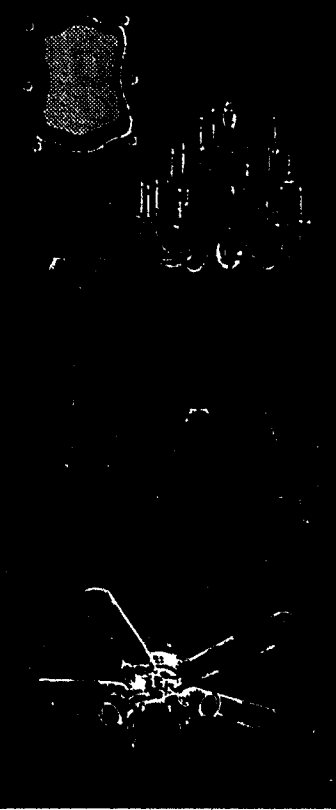
For windows, avoid wasting paper towels. Newspaper is much cheaper and more effective to scrub and dry windows. The best window cleaner can be found right in your own kitchen. Mix 1/2 cup of ammonia, 1 cup of white vinegar and 2 tablespoons of cornstarch with warm water in a large bucket; it's cheaper and works better than most store-bought cleaning solutions.

TIGHTEN THINGS UP

Don't forget the garage, too. You'll be amazed at the poor condition you left your toys and tools in when you stored them last fall. If you're planning on biking, rollerblading or even mowing the lawn to burn off that extra winter weight, make sure your equipment is fit and healthy first.

There are some great, all-purpose adjustable wrenches around, which can replace an entire socket set for checking all of the nuts and bolts. You can free frozen nuts on bikes and mowers with a couple of drops of peroxide — just let them soak in.

The most valuable thing you can do in the garage this spring is make room. In short, get organized. Some sturdy large hooks that can be wall will take care of the tools and shovels that have been lying around all winter and will make way for fishing and baseball equipment.



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Surprising New Secrets to Sell or Buy Your Home and Make Big Money

Throwing away thousands of unnecessary dollars when you sell or buy a home is crazy, claims consumer advocate and author Bob Easter. "It's really unbelievable how easy it is to avoid making costly mistakes. Most home buyers and sellers never realize how much money they're losing," he says.

For 20 years, this real-estate broker has been teaching consumers the inside tricks about home buying and selling. Knowing the 10 most critical items to fix before you put your home on the market can put big money in your wallet. The more attractive your home shows, the more likely it will sell quickly. Fixing certain items can bring a larger return than others, and some items really don't cost any money, just some work.

There are at least 14 costly mistakes all home sellers make when selling their home, and Easter is quick to point out those crucial errors in his book, "The 14 Home-Selling Secrets, The Mistakes Everyone Makes" (\$14.95 from 1-800-848-5593). The No. 1 mistake is overpricing, and Easter explains with great care how to price your home to sell quickly, yet receive the highest price possible.

Robert Bristol, Tribune Media Services syndicated columnist, says "This very realistic book is filled with practical sales advice for home sellers. His advice is practical, honest and often against the best interests of his profession."

Two of the biggest mistakes owner's make is that they:

1) list their home with the agent who quotes the highest sale price. The agent knows the owner already



has an emotional attachment to the property, along with a predetermined and unrealistic price. The agent throws out a high listing price, and the owner signs.

Author Reveals Top 10 Items To Fix Before You Sell, 10 Tips Before You Buy

2) sign a listing agreement without protecting their interest. Listing agreements are written to tie the owner to the real estate company without giving an accounting of the exact services.

"If you fail to demand certain actions from the broker before you sign the listing agreement, you lose all of your rights and power," says Easter.

Judy Rose, Detroit Free Press, says, "The 14 Home-Selling Secrets" is the best little straightforward house-selling book we have seen... It's full of gems of inside information. Easter tells you what any seller should know."

"Before you pick up the phone to call a real-estate broker to help you sell or buy a home you need to know the secrets of saving money, time and undue stress," says Easter.

There are many hidden traps of buying a home. "Paying too much for a home is one pitfall home buyers must learn to avoid," says Easter, who also wrote "Home Buying Power: Inside Tips, Tricks and Trends for Buying the Home of Your Dreams" (\$12.95). "Another major mistake is not knowing the 48 advantages and disadvantages of buying a new or resell home. A smart shopper needs to know what they are."

Mark Victor Hansen, New York Times best-selling author of "Chicken Soup for the Soul," says, "Protect your investment by learning the best advice and wisdom from a leading consumer advocate. Easter zeroes in on money-saving tips to protect home buyers now and in the future."

To receive the free checklists, "The 10 Critical Items to Fix Before You Sell," "The Top 10 Tips Before You Buy" and "The 10 Best Home Improvement Projects," send \$3 (for shipping/handling) to Bob Easter, Author, 4212 Lostridge Drive, Suite 398, Austin, TX 78731-1306. For book orders only, call 1-800-848-5593, or send a check for \$29.95 (price includes the free reports plus shipping/handling). Add \$5 shipping/handling for single orders only. All book orders are shipped same day two-day priority mail and come with a 60-day money-back guarantee when you include the name of this newspaper with your order.

SH986350

Most Home Burglaries Are Preventable If You Know How to Protect Your House

(MS) — More than 1.5 million home burglaries occur each year, yet 9 out of 10 of these crimes could have been prevented if the homeowner knew how to burglar-proof their house, according to the Insurance Information Institute (I.I.I.).

"Light, time and noise are a homeowner's greatest weapons in the fight to prevent a home burglary," says the I.I.I. "A burglar will think twice about breaking into your home if he or she has to maneuver in a well-lit yard and if you make it both time-consuming and noisy to get into your house."

To help prevent home burglaries, the I.I.I. offers the following suggestions:

• "Case" your house the way a burglar might and look for easy ways to enter your home. Look to see if valuables like expensive electronic equipment or artwork are visible from the street. If a passerby can see your belongings, so can criminals.

• Keep your home well-lit. Mount exterior lights, out of reach, in your yard or on your house. If you are going out for the evening, remember to leave a few lights on in the house.

• Discourage a would-be burglar by making it time-consuming to break into your home. Simple security devices like grates, bars, dead-bolt windows and door locks, and other ordinary anti-theft devices can slow a burglar down. Many would-be criminals will give up if it takes more than five minutes to get in. Ask your local hardware dealer or locksmith to recommend pick-resistant devices.

• Make it noisy to break into your home. Consider investing in a burglar alarm. There are many types of systems available. The most effective ones ring



at an outside service and contact the police, fire or other emergency service.

• Make sure you have strong doors. Outside doors should be made of metal or solid hardwood and be at least 1 1/2 inches thick. Frames must also be made of strong material, and each door must fit its frame securely. The best lock will not deter a burglar if it is installed in a weak door.

When improving the security of your home, it also is important not to exchange security for personal safety. Don't make your home such a fortress that you are unable to escape in case of a fire or other emergency.

Insurance companies provide discounts for devices that make a home safer. Most companies give discounts of two percent to five percent for dead-bolt locks and smoke/fire alarms. Discounts of 15 percent (or 20 percent also are available if you install a sophisticated

smoke and burglar alarm system that rings at an outside service. Not all systems will qualify for a discount, so talk to your insurance agent.

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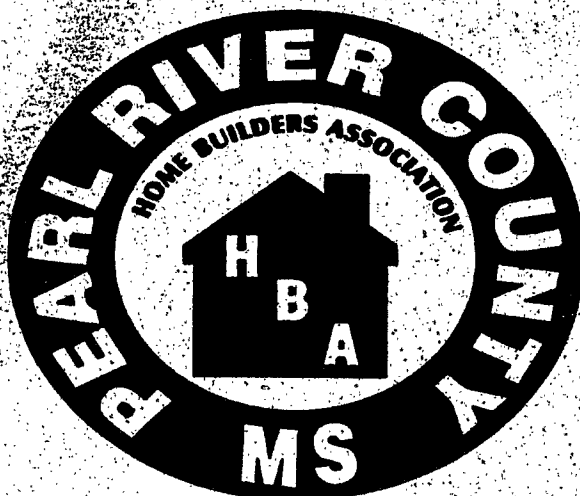
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